



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

35
APR

the **AMAZING** **SPIDER-MAN**

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

IND.



"The MOLTEN MAN Regrets...!"

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"THE

MOLTEN MAN REGRETS....!"

IT'S CHANGE-OF-PACE
TIME ONCE AGAIN,
SO CLIMB ABOARD
FOR THE **ACTION....!**



THIS ONE
IS FOR THE REAL
OLD-FASHIONED, DYED-
IN-THE-WOOL SPIDEY
FANATICS WHO LIKE TO
SEE OL' WEB-HEAD FIGHT-
ING AS ONLY HE CAN!
WE ENVY YOU...YOU'RE
GONNA HAVE
YOURSELF A
BALL!

SCRIPT &
EDITING..... **STAN LEE**

PLOT &
ARTWORK.... **STEVE DITKO**

LETTERING &
LOITERING.... **ART SIMEK**

OUR SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL SAGA BEGINS WHERE SO MANY OF THEM *END*--IN A COLD, SOMBER PRISON CELL, SOME MONTHS AGO, WHERE WE FIND...

OKAY, RAXTON, LOOK ALIVE! HIZZONER WANTS TO SEE YOU! SO LET'S GO!

FINALLY GONNA SENTENCE ME, HUH? WELL, I'M NOT WORRIED! THEY TELL ME HE'S USUALLY SOFT ON FIRST OFFENDERS!

AND, IT SEEMS THAT THE *MOLTEN MAN* HAS BEEN TOLD *RIGHT*--!

BECAUSE YOU BECAME WHAT YOU ARE THRU AN UNFORE-SEEN *ACCIDENT**-- AND YOU HAVE OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES YOU'VE CAUSED-- I'M GIVING YOU A *SUSPENDED SENTENCE*, RAXTON!

THANKS, YOUR HONOR! YOU WON'T BE SORRY!

*AS SPRIGHTLY SHOWN IN *SPIDEY*#28-- STAN.

MINUTES LATER, ONE OF THE STRANGEST FOES SPIDER-MAN HAS EVER FOUGHT LOSES HIMSELF AMONGST THE CITY'S TEEMING MILLIONS ONCE AGAIN...

FREE AT LAST! LUCKY I WAS A MODEL PRISONER AND ACTED REPENTANT!

NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO MAKE SURE I *STAY* FREE! NO MORE JAILS FOR THE *MOLTEN MAN*!

LATER, IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN APARTMENT, RAXTON PEELS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHES, AGAIN TO REVEL IN HIS AWESOME POWER...

HAH! I'M AS STRONG AS EVER --MAYBE EVEN STRONGER!

SPIDER-MAN BEAT ME THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT, FOR MY POWER WAS *NEW* TO ME! I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW TO *HANDLE* IT!

BUT NOW, I'VE HAD TIME TO THINK-- TO PLAN-- TO MAKE SURE THAT THE *MOLTEN MAN* WILL *NEVER* BE BEATEN AGAIN!

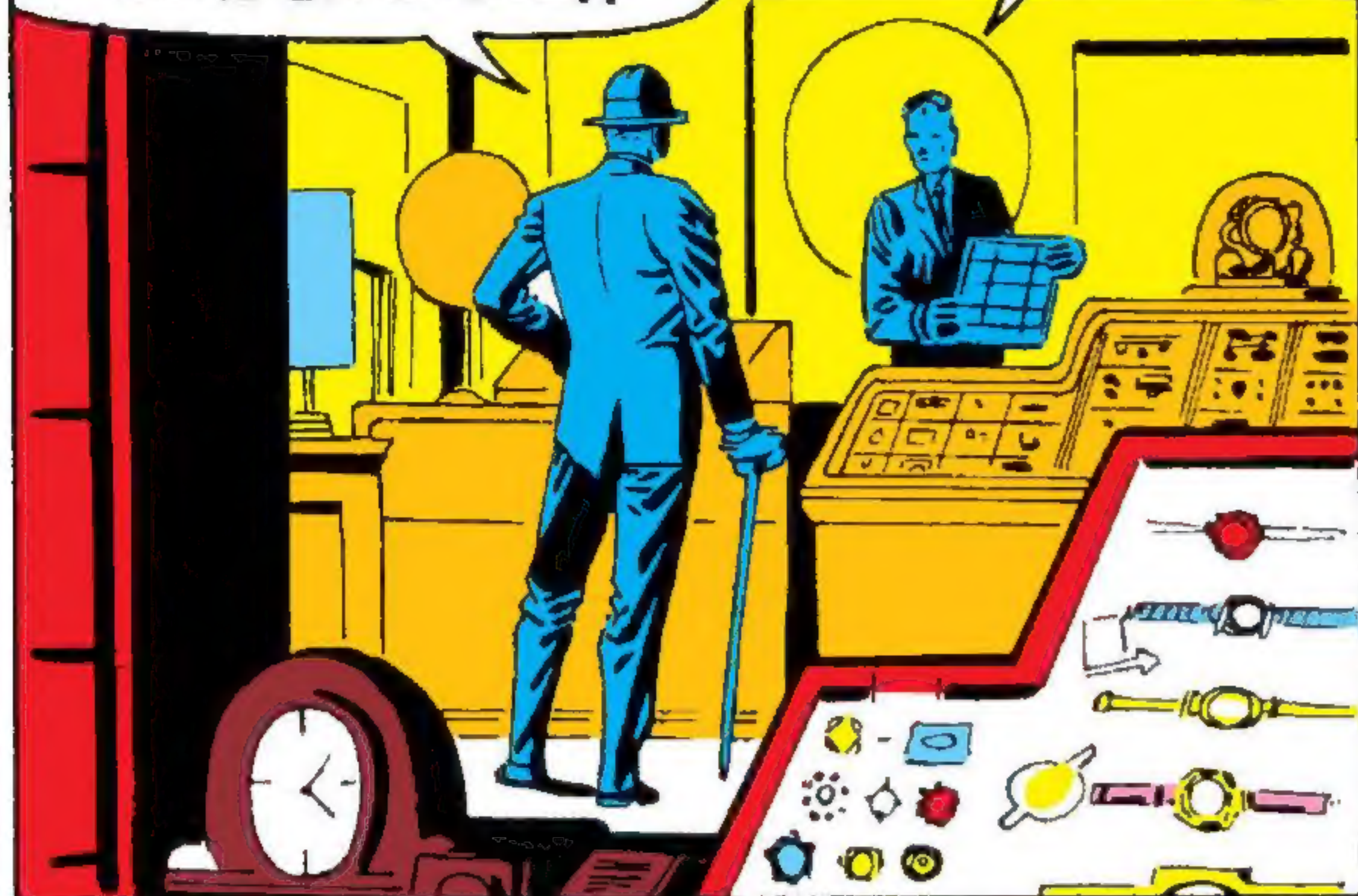
I WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF RUNNING WILD A SECOND TIME, USING NOTHING BUT MY POWER! THIS TIME I'VE FIGURED ALL THE ANGLES--

FIRST, I'LL LAY LOW FOR A WHILE --AND THEN-- I'LL *STRIKE*!

THUS, THRU THE MAGIC OF OUR IMAGINATION, WE NOW BRIDGE THE GAP OF TIME! MANY DAYS LATER, AN EXCLUSIVE MADISON AVENUE JEWELRY SHOP RECEIVES A DISTINGUISHED-LOOKING PATRON...

NO! NO! THOSE GEMS ARE ALL TOO ORDINARY-- TOO PEDESTRIAN! HAVE YOU NOTHING MORE EXOTIC-- MORE EXPENSIVE??

WHY, YES SIR-- WE DO! I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO SHOW THEM TO YOU!



REMEMBER, MONEY IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME! I WILL ONLY CONSIDER YOUR VERY FINEST JEWELS!

I WISH I HAD A DOZEN MORE CUSTOMERS LIKE HIM! I COULD RETIRE IN A WEEK!

I'LL HAVE THEM FOR YOU IN A MOMENT, SIR-- AS SOON AS I OPEN THE SAFE!



I'M SURE *THESE* ARE WHAT I WANT! DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO SHOW THEM TO ME! I'LL TAKE THEM *ALL*!

BUT-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WAIT-- YOU CAN'T--

UHHHH--!



SO! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A *CROOK*! WELL, YOU MAY HAVE FOOLED ME AT *FIRST*, BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

IF YOU THINK THAT TOY WILL STOP ME, YOU'RE IN FOR A VERY RUDE *SURPRISE*!



RAISE YOUR HANDS-- I WARN YOU! STAY BACK--!

YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO-- *WHA--??!*

A BULLET-PROOF VEST! THAT HAS TO BE THE ANSWER!

SO YOU THINK IT'S A VEST, DO YOU?

CRACK!



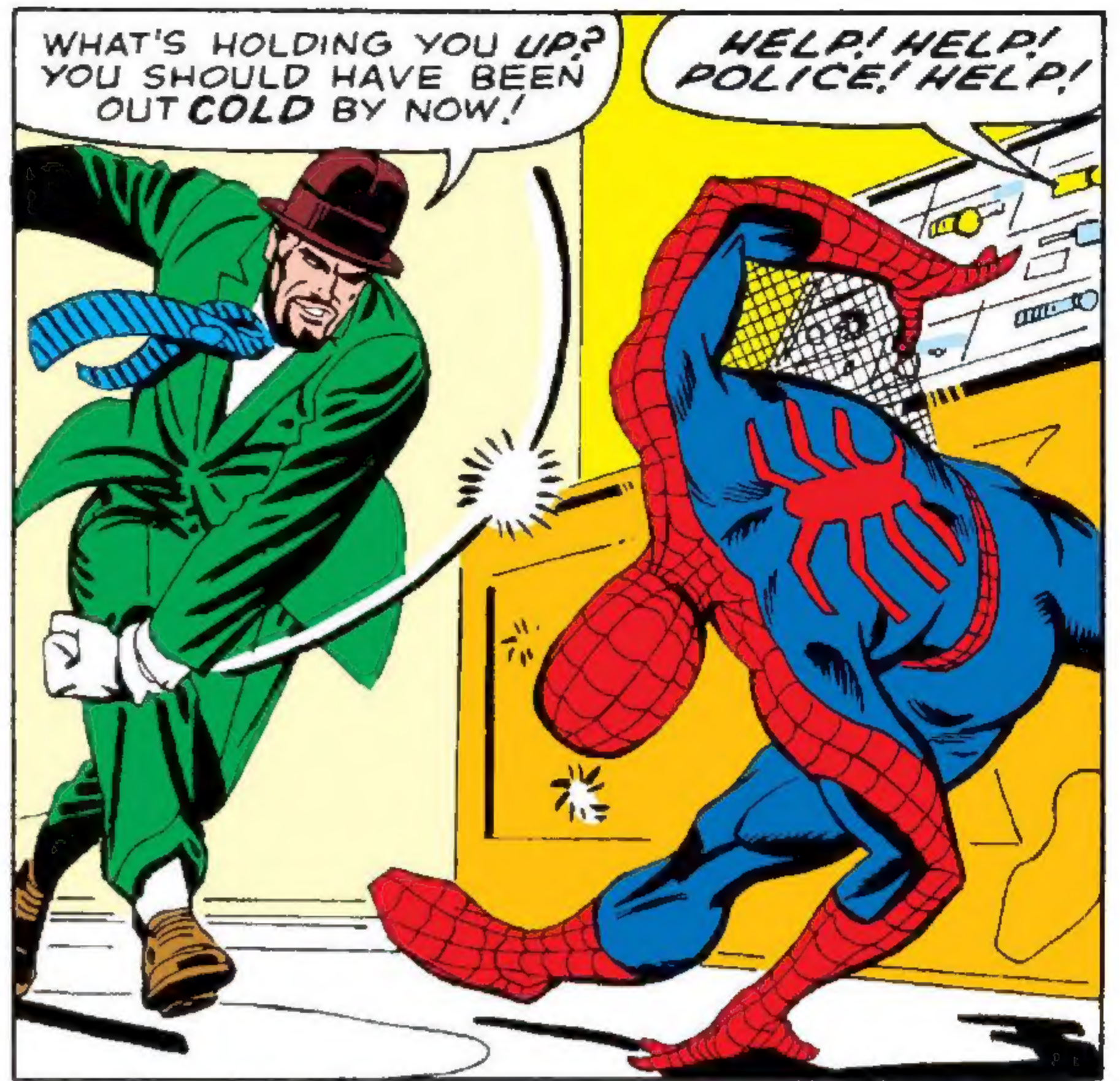
CAN A VEST DO-- *THIS??!*

Y-YOU CRUSHED THE GUN-- LIKE AN EGG-SHELL--!!



BUT, AS A SAGACIOUS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN IS BLITHELY ROMPING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS DIRECTLY ABOVE AT THAT VERY MOMENT! (WHICH IS AS LUCKY FOR US AS FOR THE MERCHANT BELOW--ELSE WE'D HAVE A SUPER HERO YARN SAYS SUPER HERO!)





MINUTES LATER, THE "BIG SPENDER" REACHES HIS DECREPIT DIGS...

THERE! ONCE I DESTROY THIS DISGUISE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING TO LINK THE **MOLTEN MAN** WITH THAT ESCAPED GEM THIEF!

THE ONLY THING **WRONG** IS-- I ESCAPED **EMPTY-HANDED!** IN THE EXCITEMENT, I LEFT THE **LOOT** BEHIND!



SO **SPIDER-MAN** FOULED ME UP ONCE **MORE!** BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN **AGAIN--**

--'CAUSE IF IT **DOES**, I'LL FINISH HIM OFF --FOR **GOOD!**



WHILE, IN A DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOOD, WE FIND OUR FABULOUS, FRUSTRATED FRIEND...

NO **SIGN** OF HIM ANYWHERE!

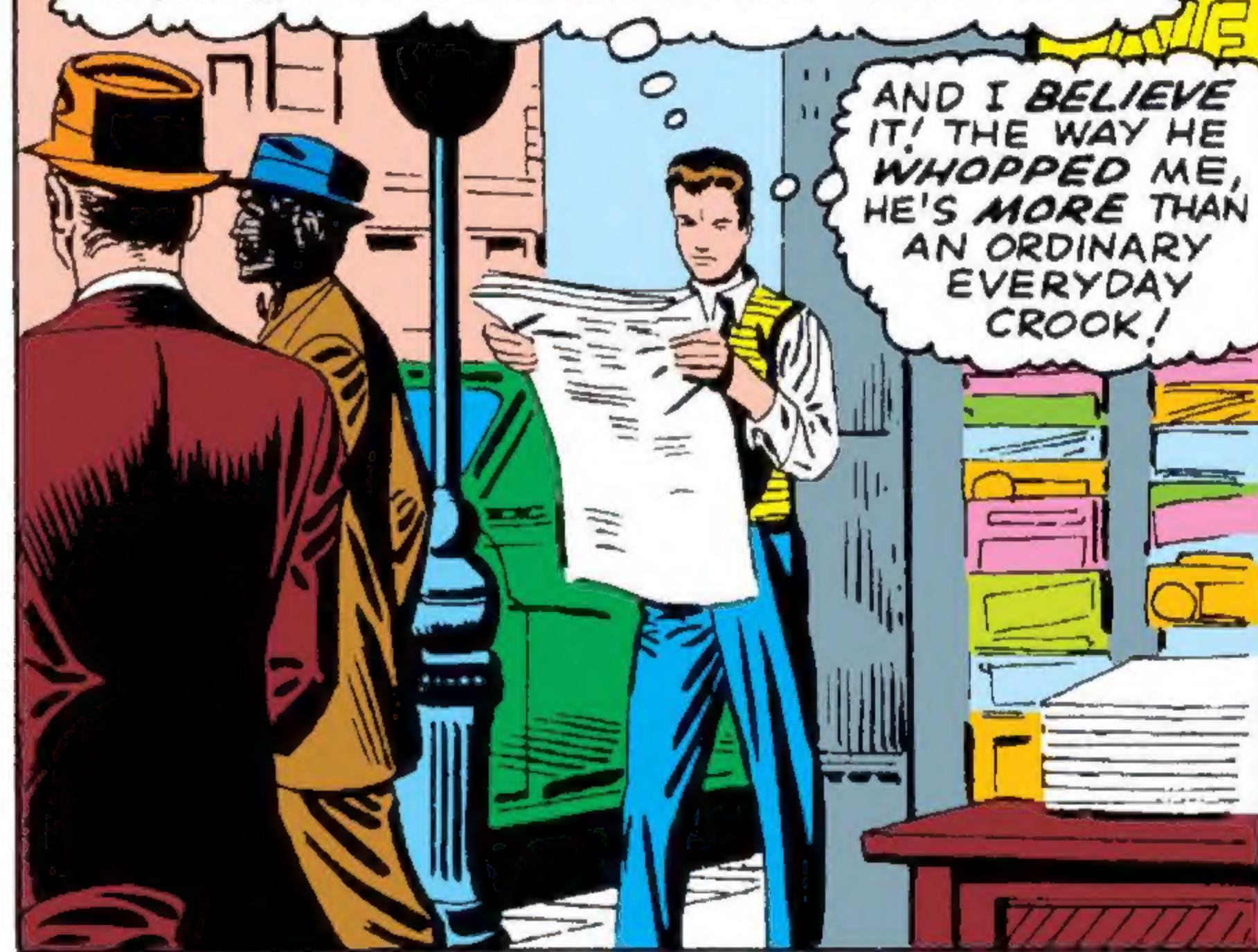


WHOEVER HE WAS, HE GAVE ME THE SLIP THIS TIME!

THEN, RETURNING TO HIS NORMAL IDENTITY OF **PETER PARKER**, THE YOUTH READS A FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAS JUST TRANSPIRED...

ACCORDING TO THE JEWELRY STORE CLERK'S SWORN STATEMENT, THAT WOULD-BE ROBBER CRUSHED A REVOLVER IN HIS BARE HAND!

AND I **BELIEVE** IT! THE WAY HE **WHOPPED** ME, HE'S **MORE** THAN AN ORDINARY **EVERYDAY** CROOK!



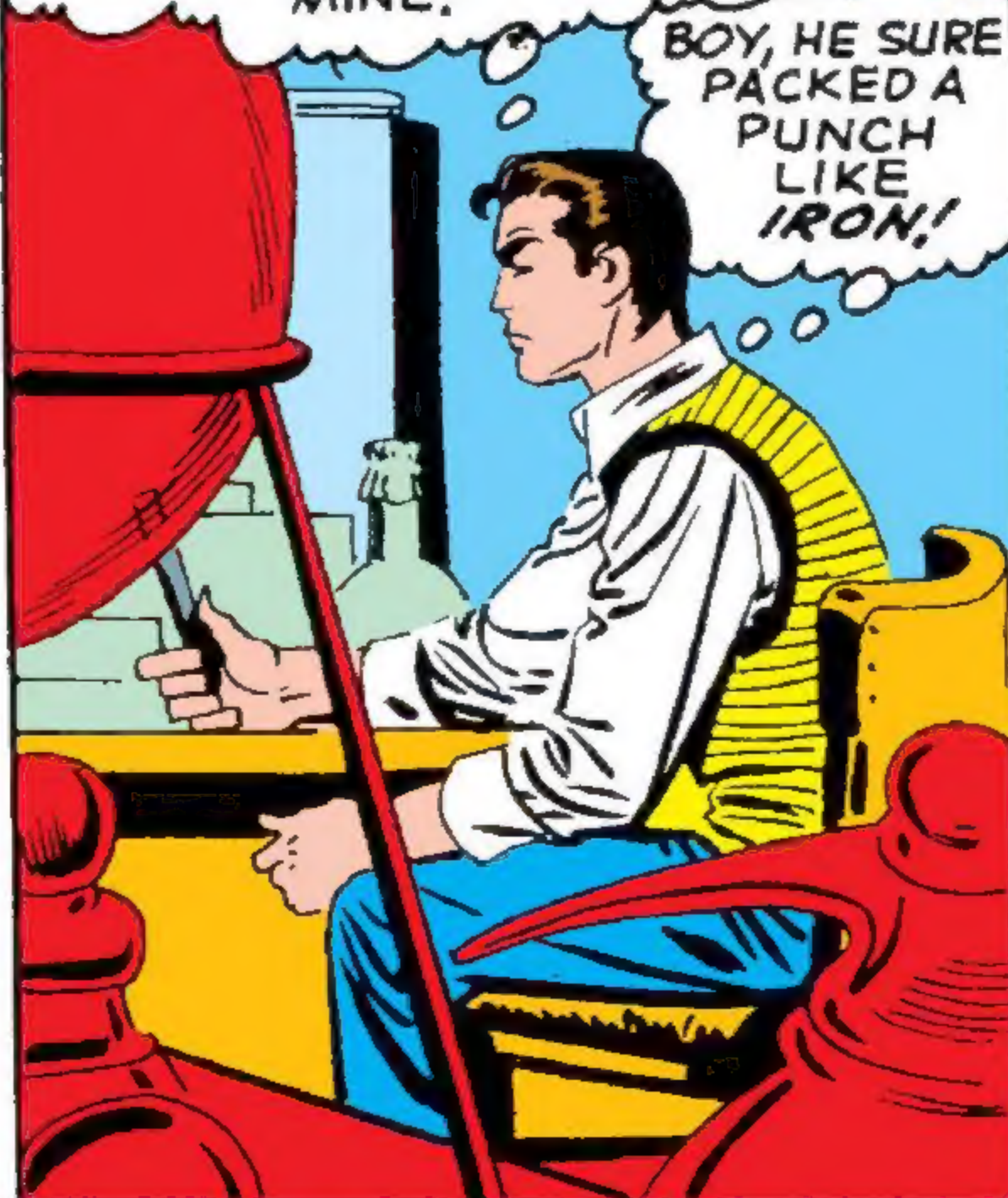
BUT, HOW **MUCH** MORE? THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!

THERE WAS SOMETHING **DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR** ABOUT HIM--IF ONLY I COULD PUT MY FINGER ON IT--!



HE COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN WEARING A **DISGUISE**-- SO HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALMOST **ANYBODY!** PERHAPS EVEN SOME FORMER ENEMY OF MINE!

BOY, HE SURE PACKED A PUNCH LIKE **IRON!**



IRON! IRON'S A **METAL!** AND HIS PUNCH FELT LIKE **METAL!**

IT'S A LONG SHOT --BUT IT COULD BE-- THE **MOLTEN MAN!** I'D BET ON IT!



WITHIN SECONDS, THE AMAZING WEB-SLINGIN' ADVENTURER IS BACK ON THE PROWL AGAIN AS HE HEADS FOR A SEEDY ROOMING HOUSE, NEAR THE WATERFRONT...



IF I REMEMBER RIGHTLY, THIS IS WHERE MOLTEY LIVED THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT!

NOTHING'S CHANGED MUCH! NO REASON TO THINK HE MOVED ANYWHERE ELSE! HE PROBABLY *STILL* LIVES HERE!



THE PLACE IS *EMPTY* NOW-- BUT *THAT* DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!

NO HARM IN WAITING AROUND FOR A WHILE AND SEEING WHAT HAPPENS!



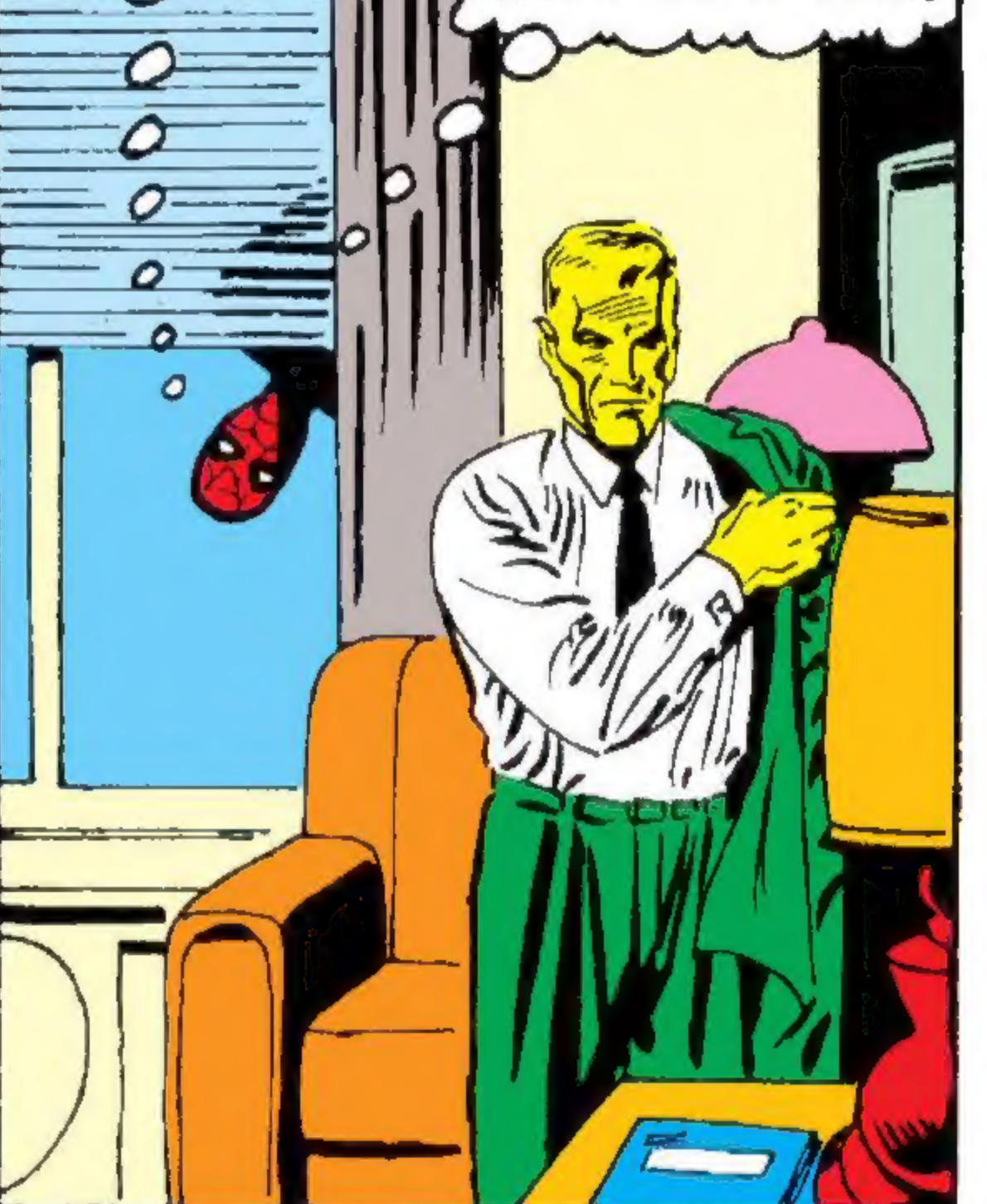
THEN, BEFORE TOO VERY LONG...

A *LIGHT* JUST WENT ON! HE'S *BACK*!



I WAS RIGHT! HE'S LIVING HERE AGAIN!

BUT, I STILL HAVE NO *PROOF* THAT RAXTON IS THE MAN I'M AFTER!

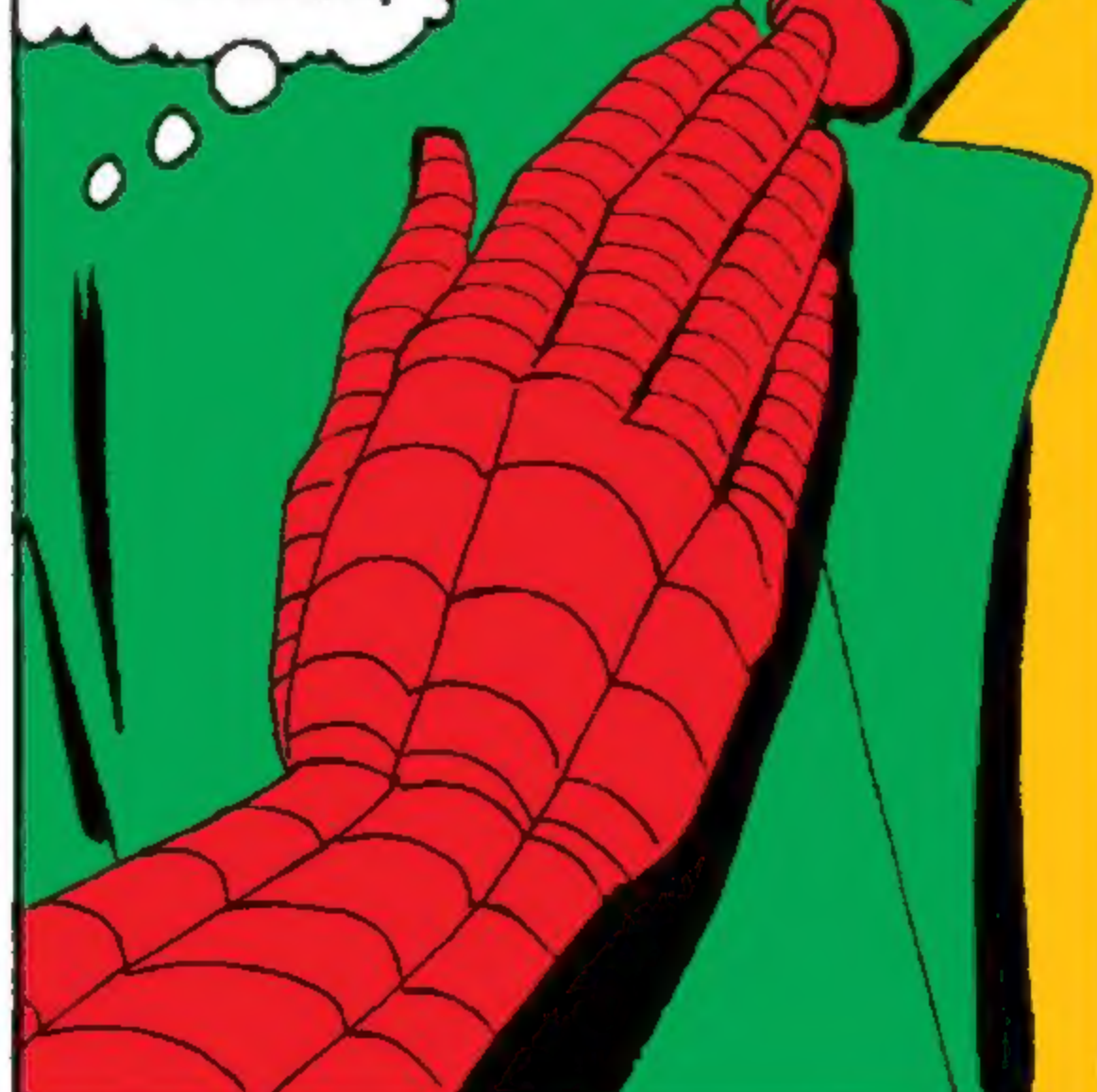


A HALF HOUR LATER...

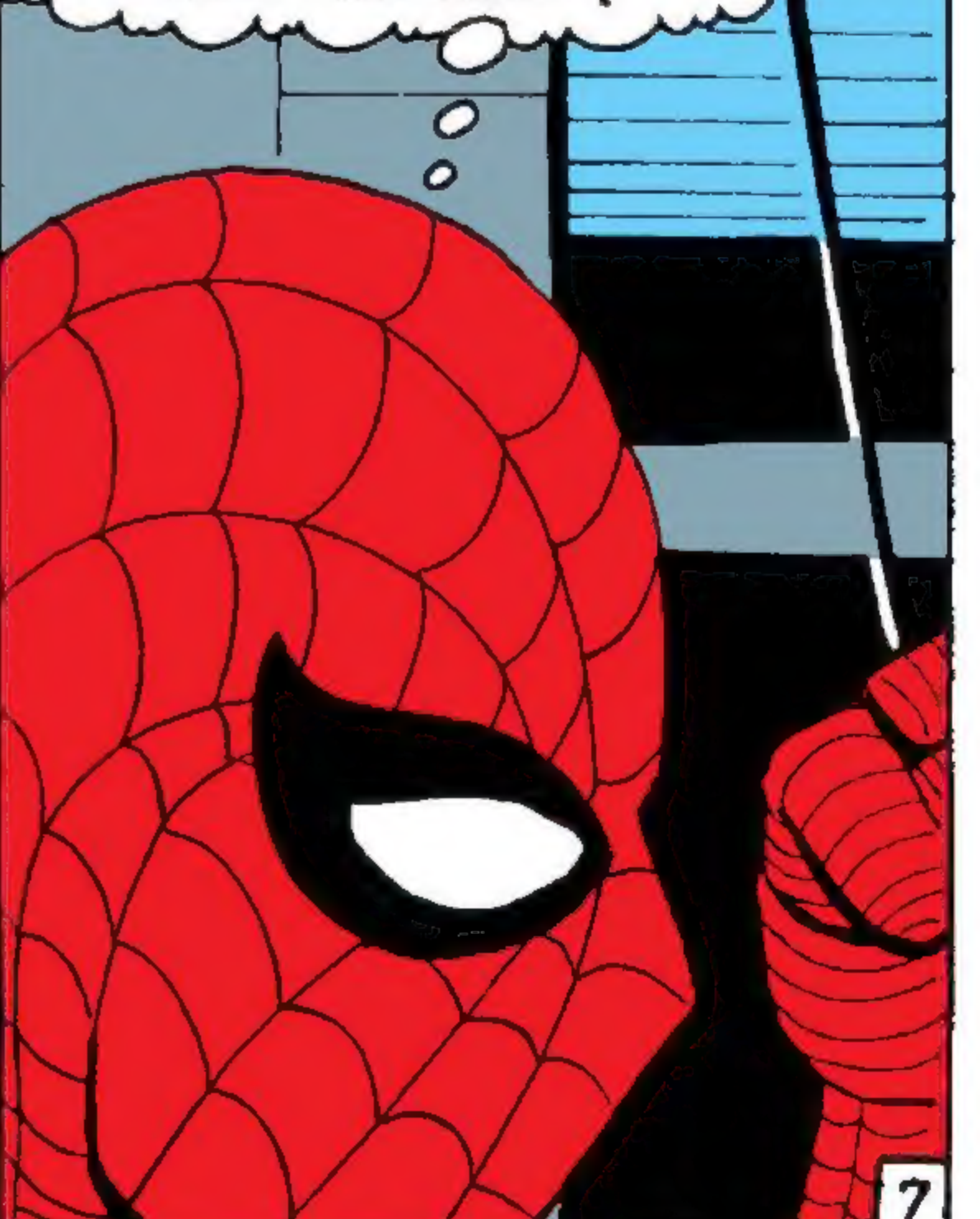


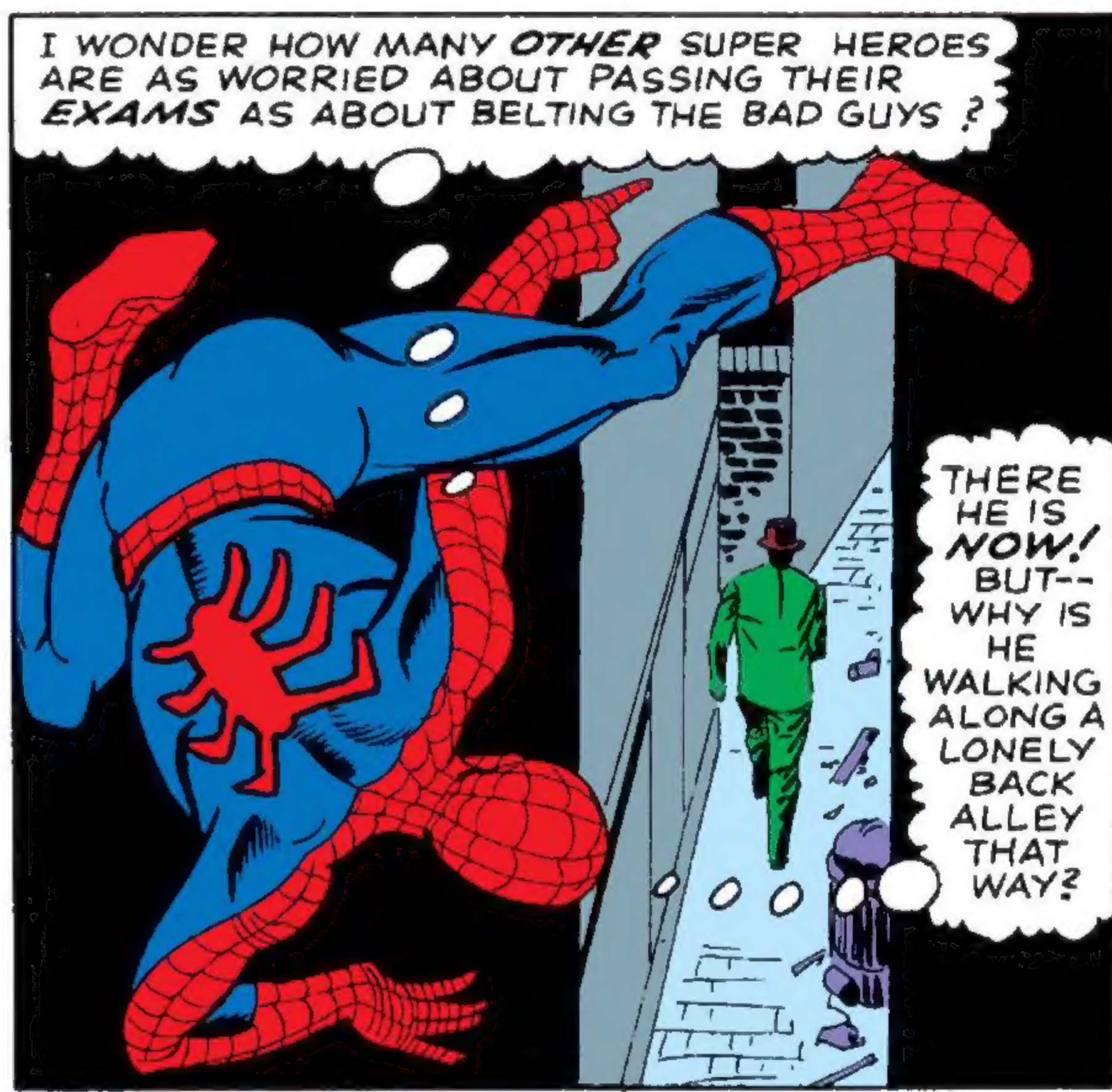
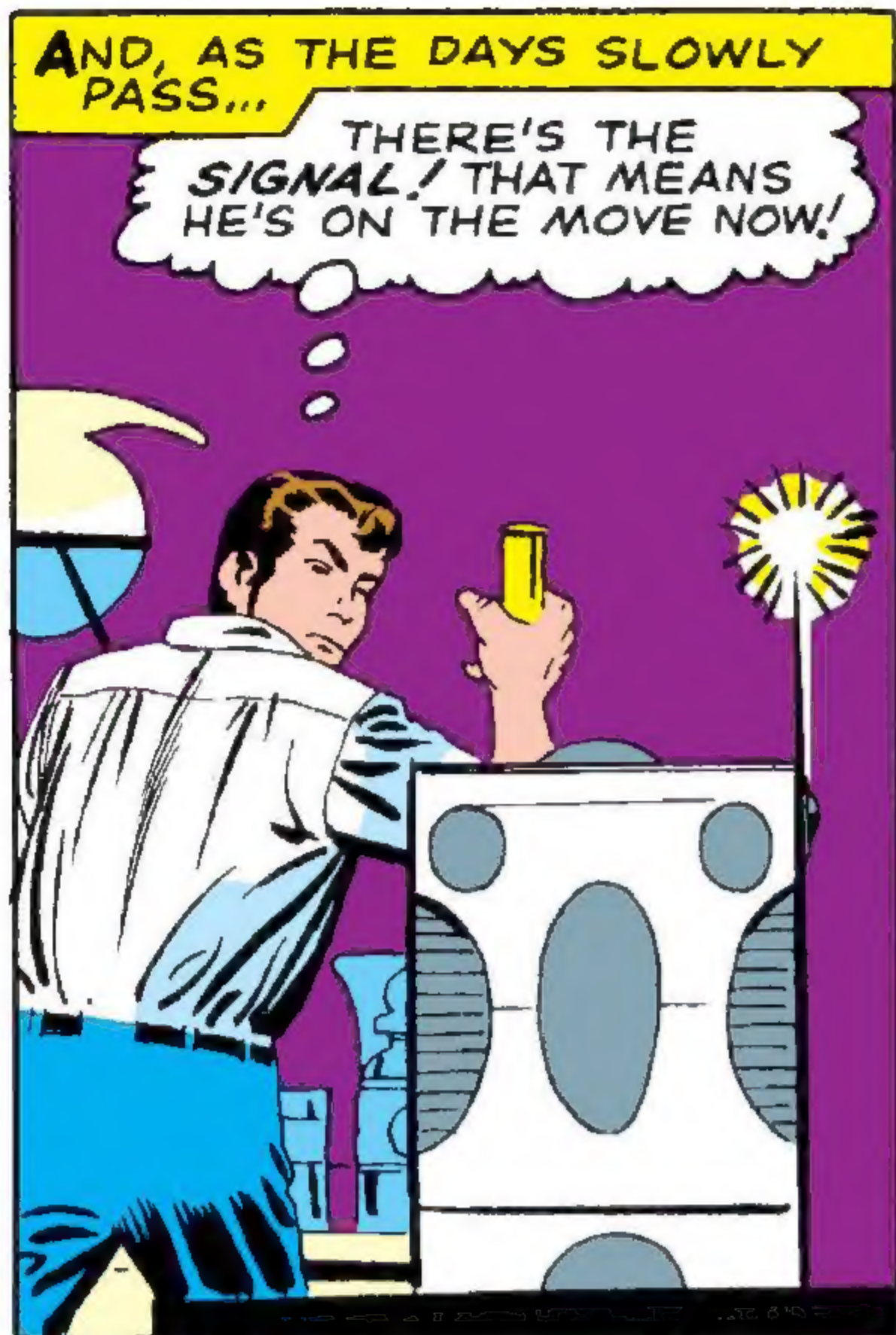
HE'S GONE TO BED! THIS IS MY CHANCE!

I'LL JUST STICK ONE OF MY LITTLE "SPIDER TRACERS" BEHIND THE LAPEL OF HIS JACKET -- THERE!



THAT'S THAT! NOW IT'LL BE A CINC H FOR ME TO KEEP TABS ON HIM, NO MATTER WHAT!

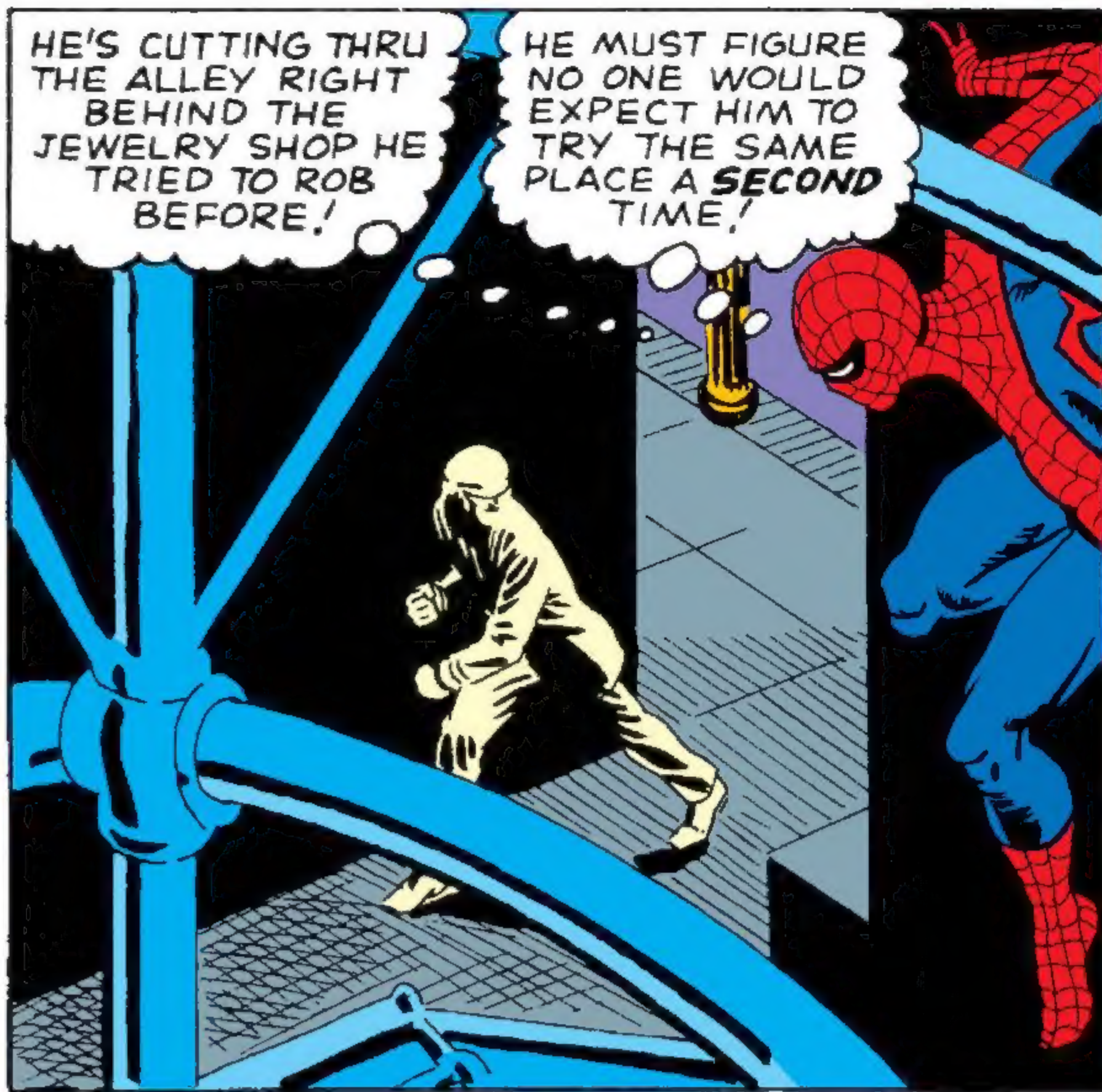






WHATEVER HE'S UP TO, IT'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING **CROOKED**, OR HE WOULDN'T NEED A DISGUISE!

SO, *THIS* TIME I'M NOT LETTING HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT!

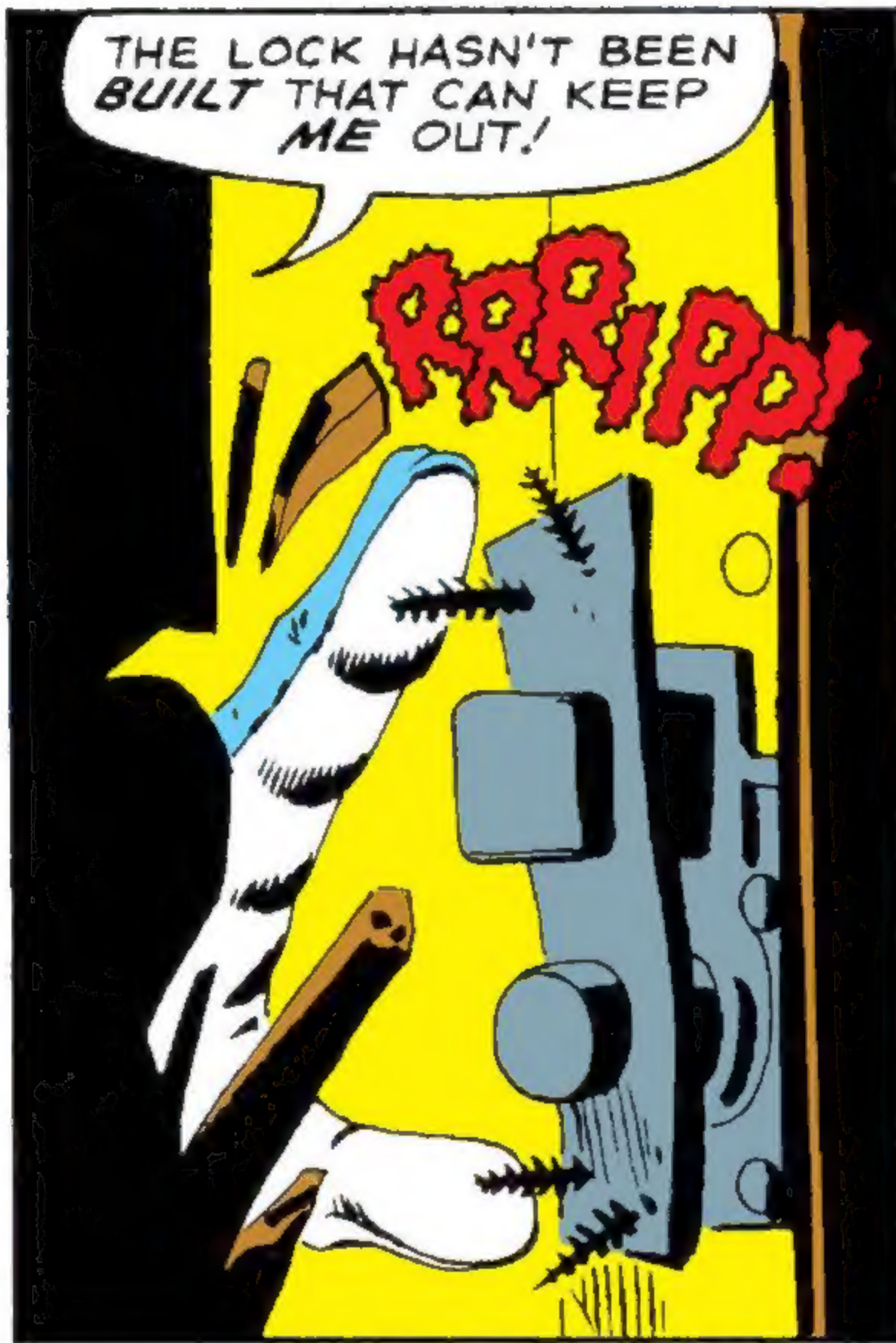


HE'S CUTTING THRU THE ALLEY RIGHT BEHIND THE JEWELRY SHOP HE TRIED TO ROB BEFORE!

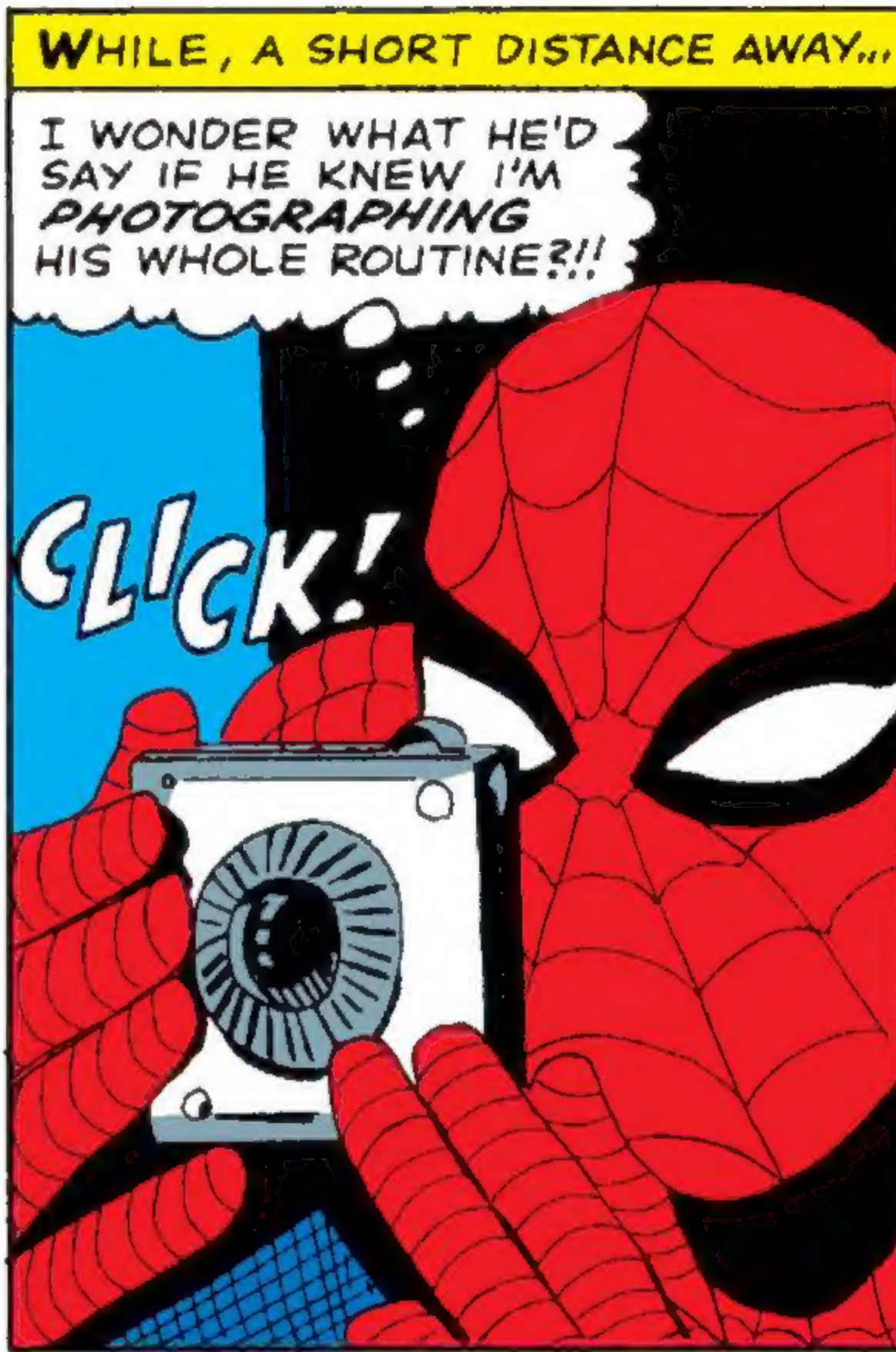
HE MUST FIGURE NO ONE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO TRY THE SAME PLACE A **SECOND** TIME!



THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF THE BURGLAR ALARM! NOW, THE REST WILL BE A **SNAP!**

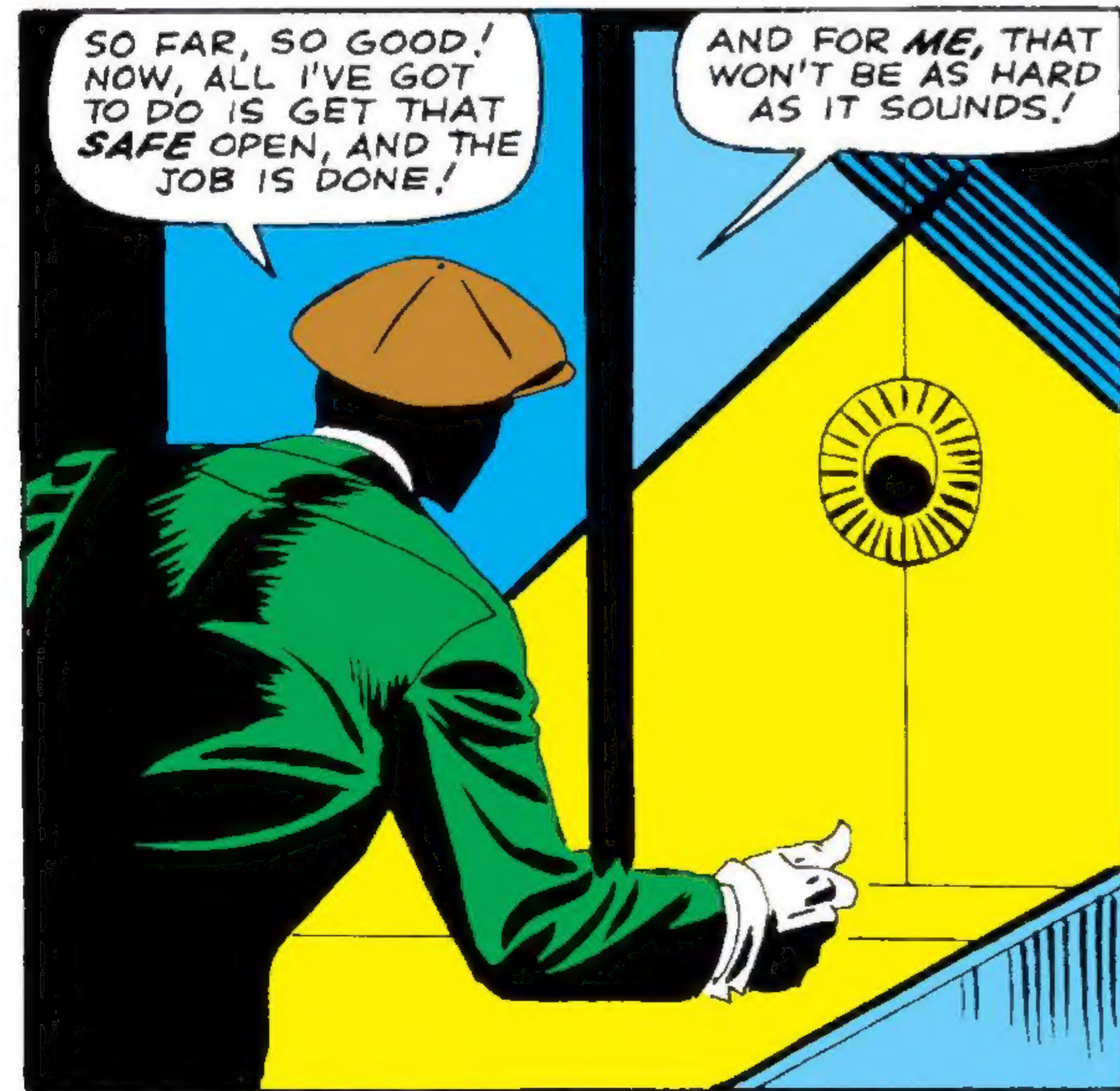


THE LOCK HASN'T BEEN **BUILT** THAT CAN KEEP ME OUT!



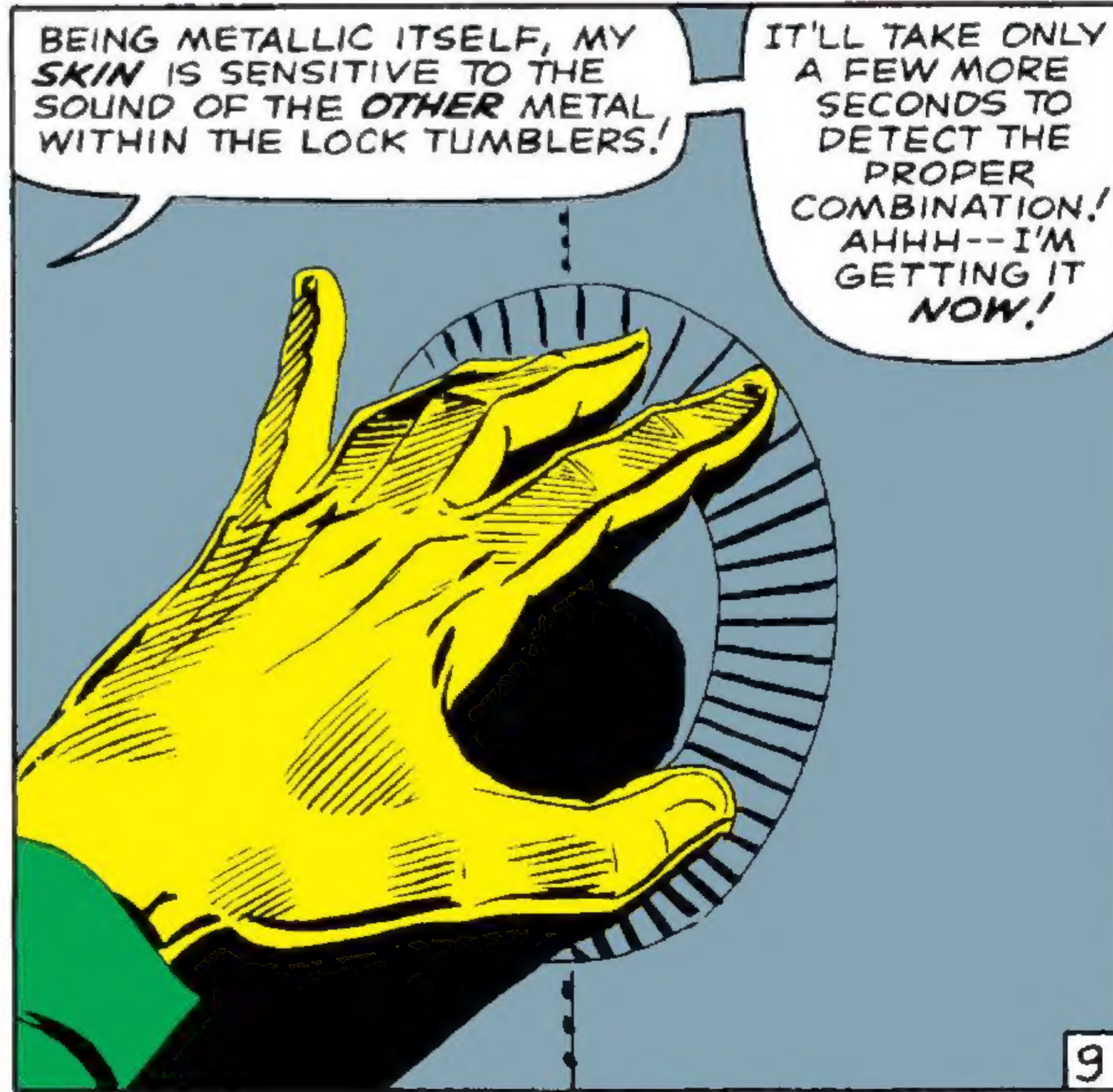
WHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

I WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE KNEW I'M **PHOTOGRAPHING** HIS WHOLE ROUTINE?!!



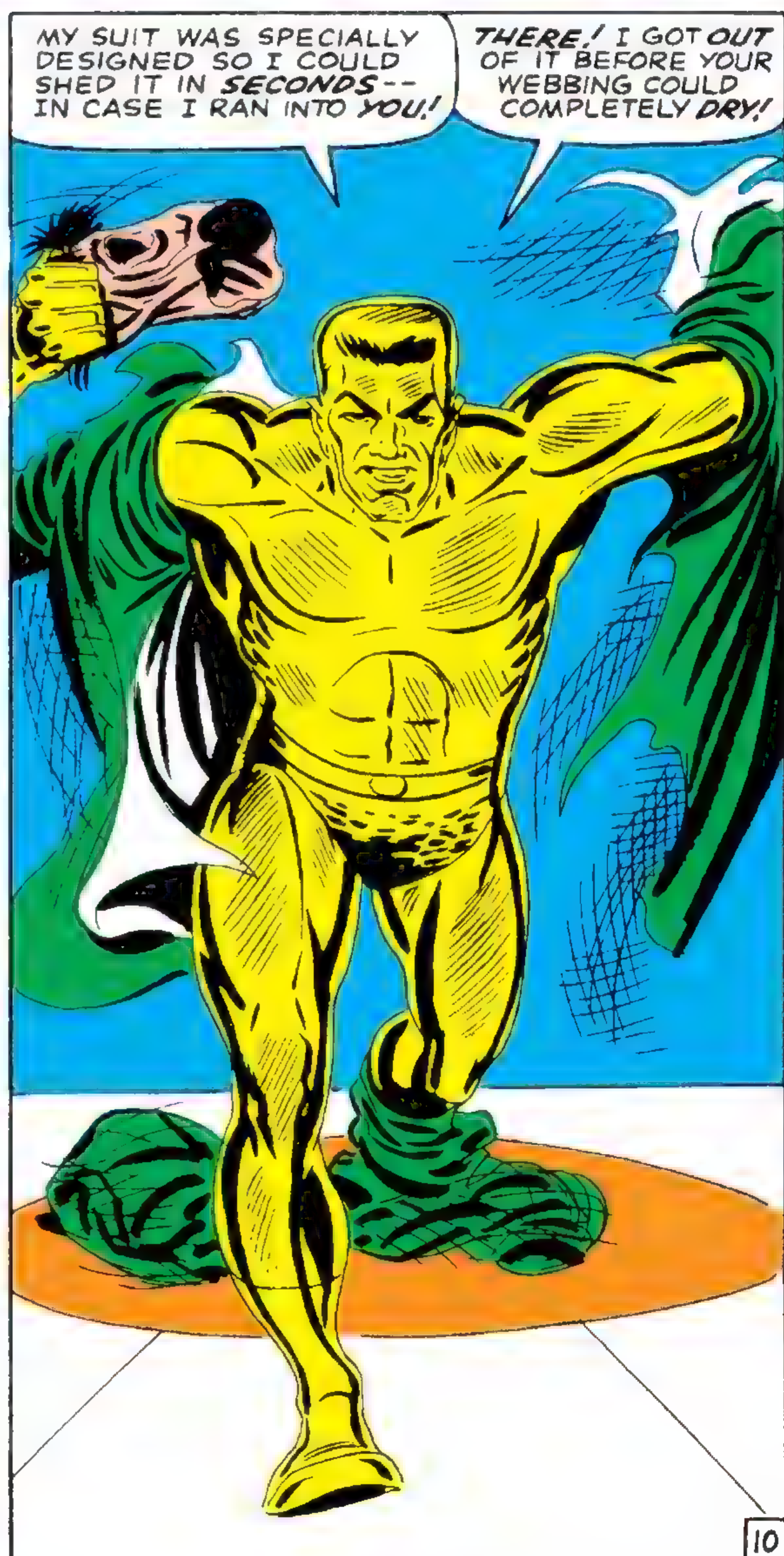
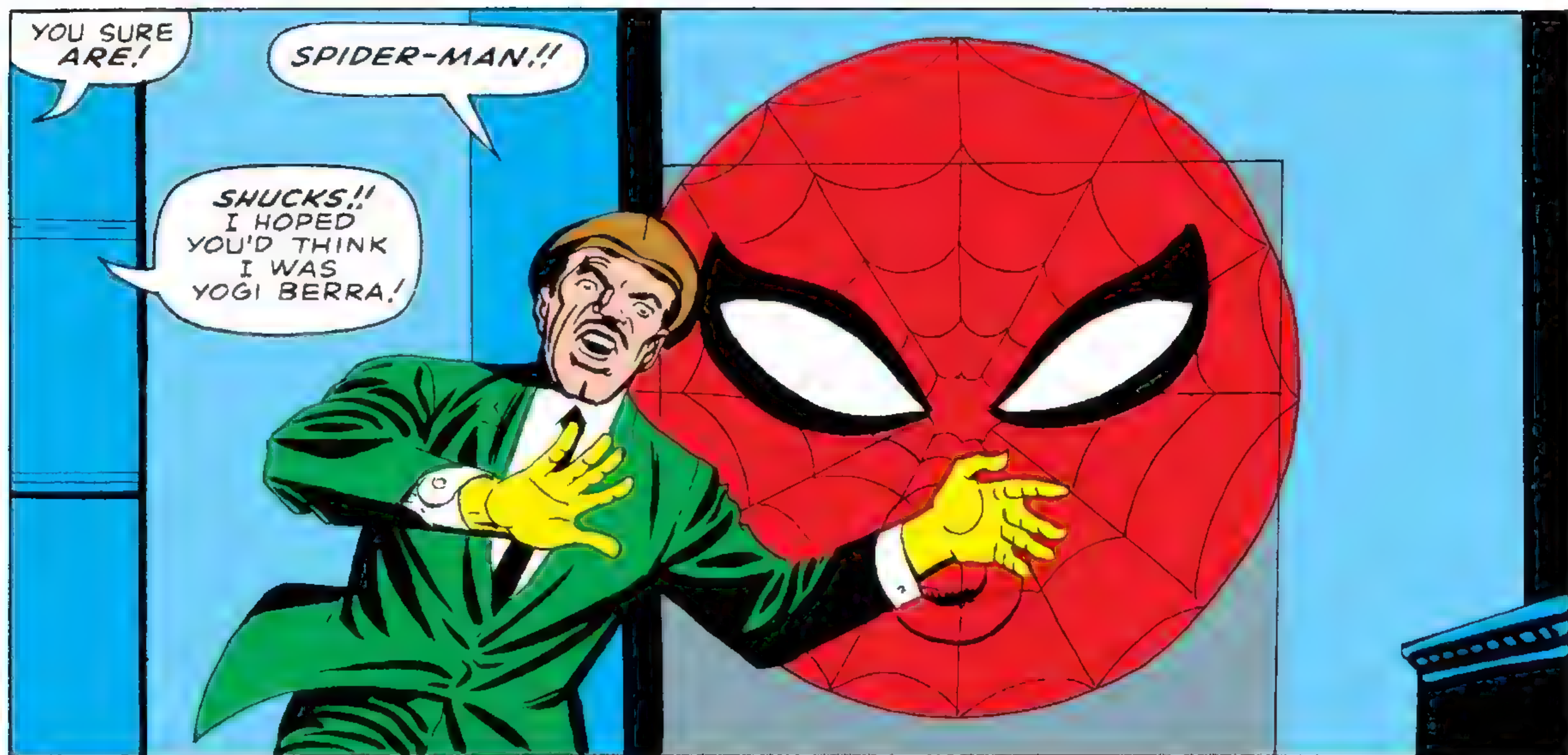
SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS GET THAT **SAFE** OPEN, AND THE JOB IS DONE!

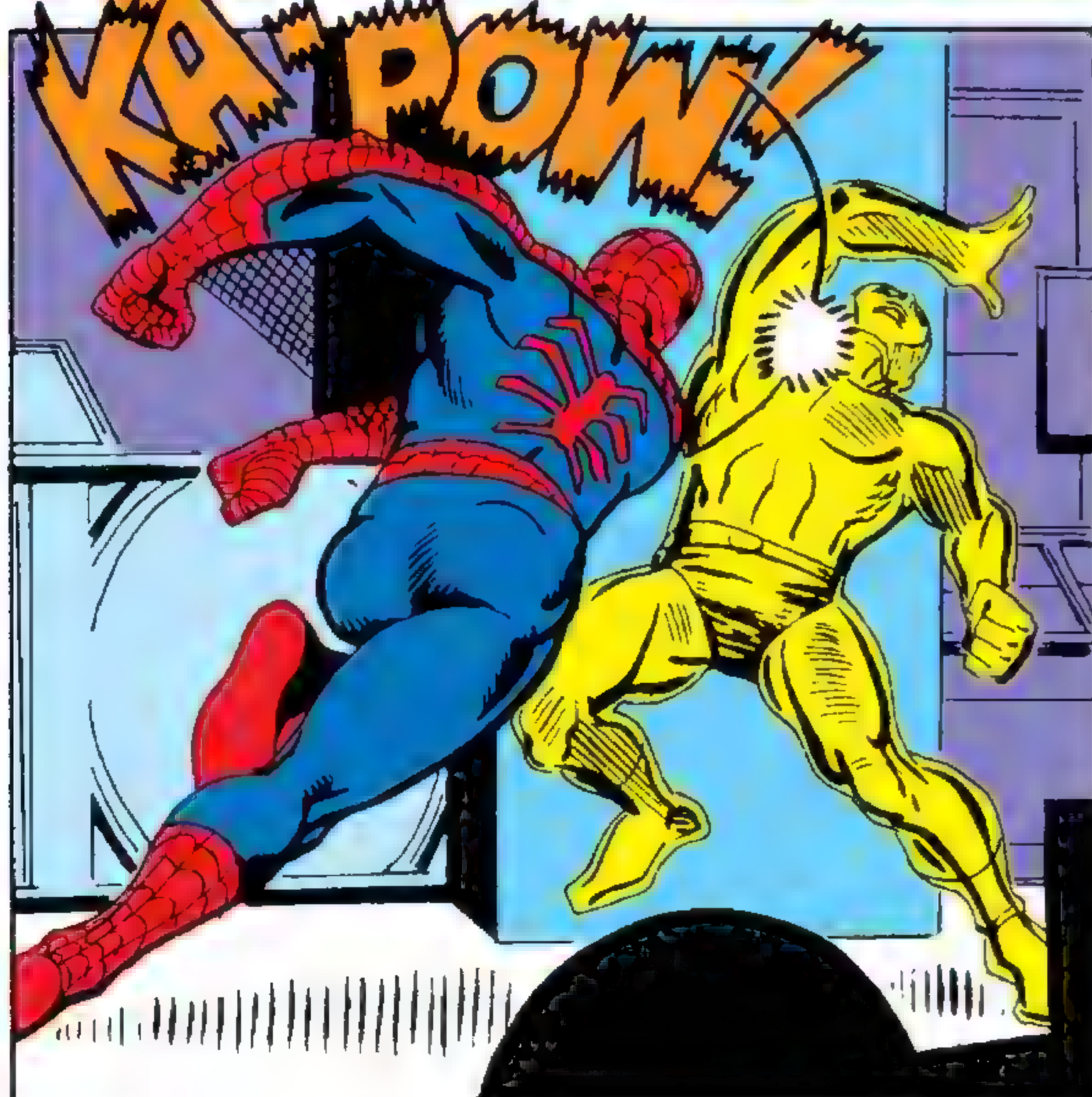
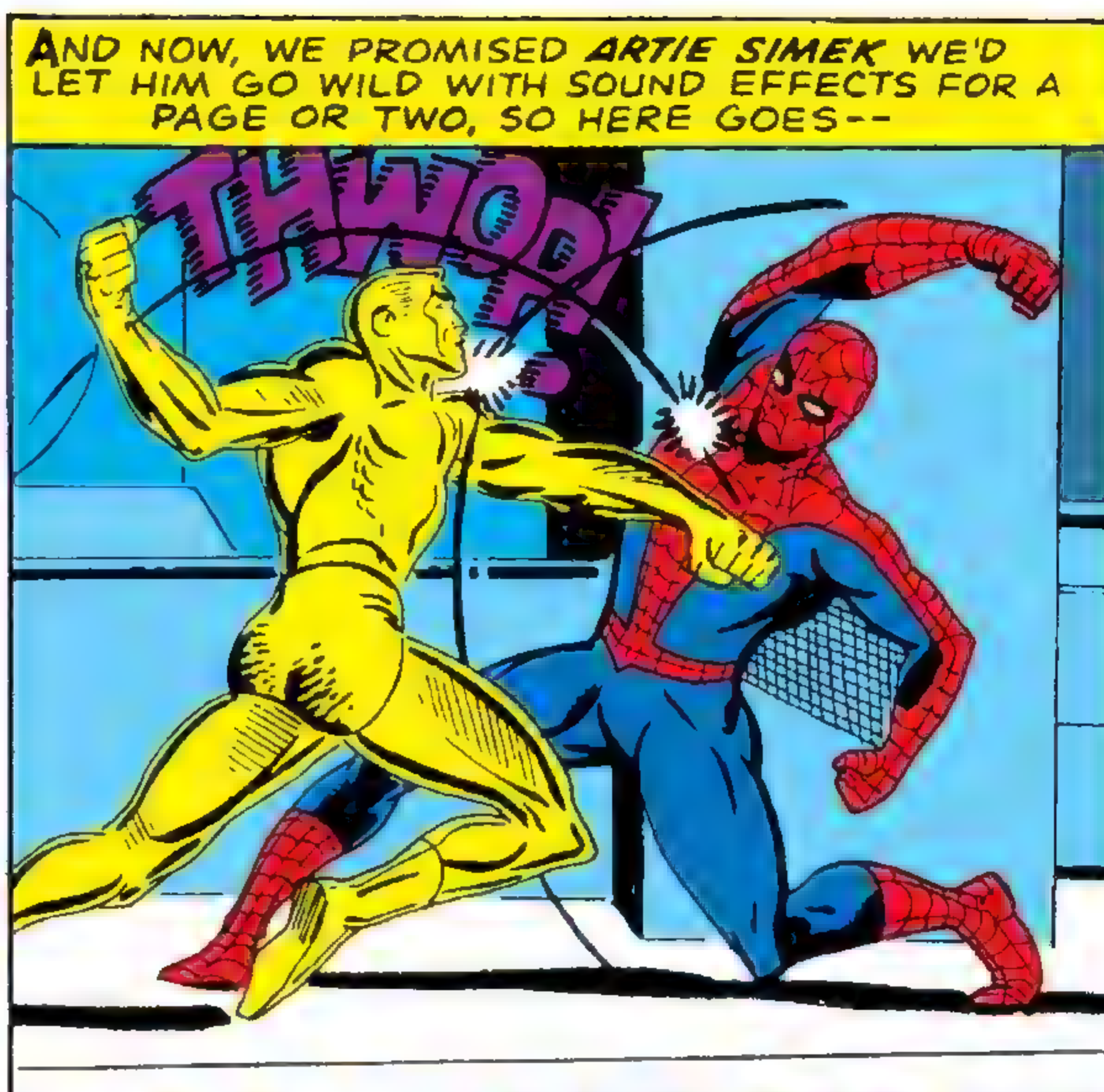
AND FOR *ME*, THAT WON'T BE AS HARD AS IT SOUNDS!

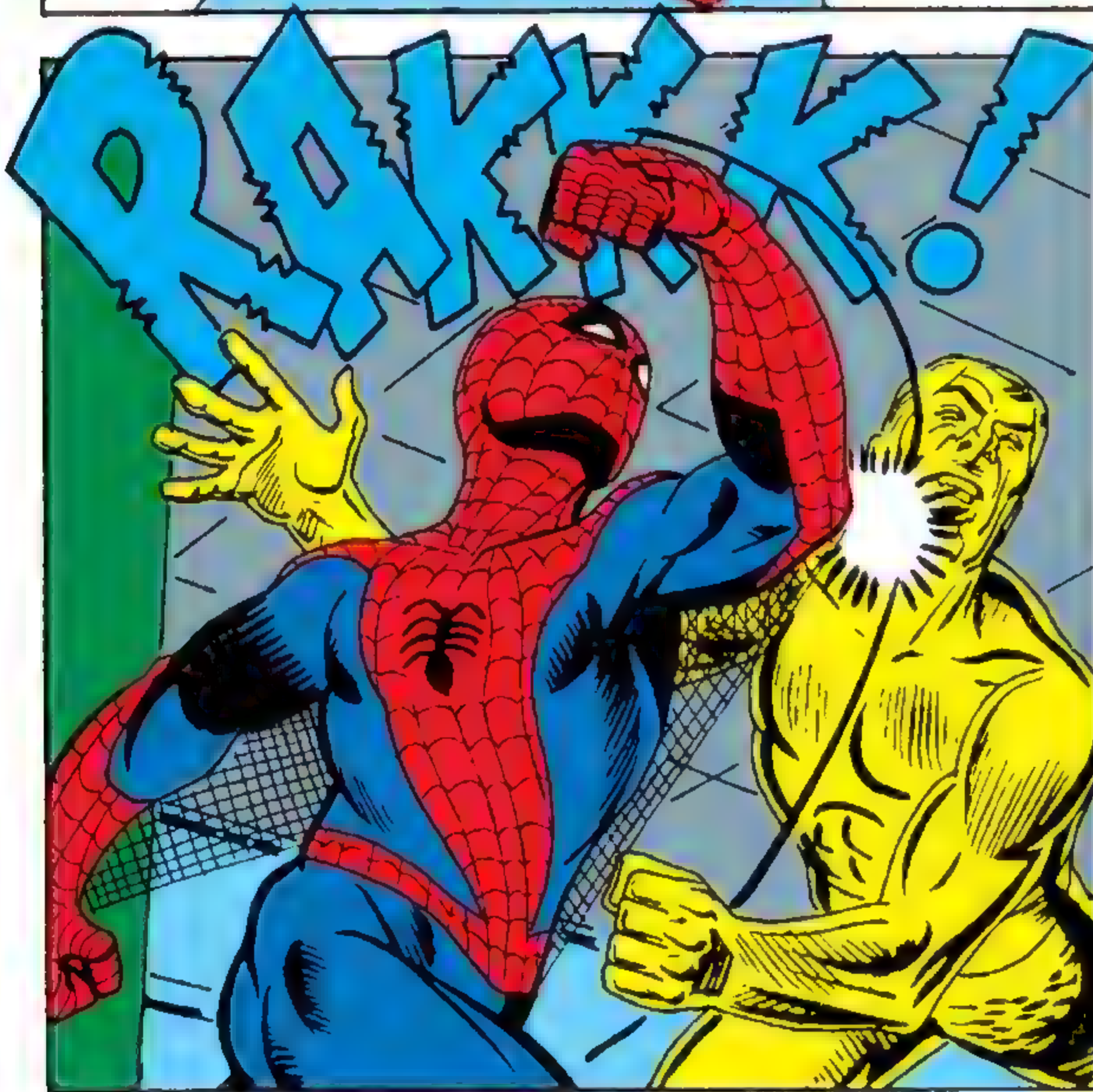


BEING METALLIC ITSELF, MY **SKIN** IS SENSITIVE TO THE SOUND OF THE **OTHER** METAL WITHIN THE LOCK TUMBLERS!

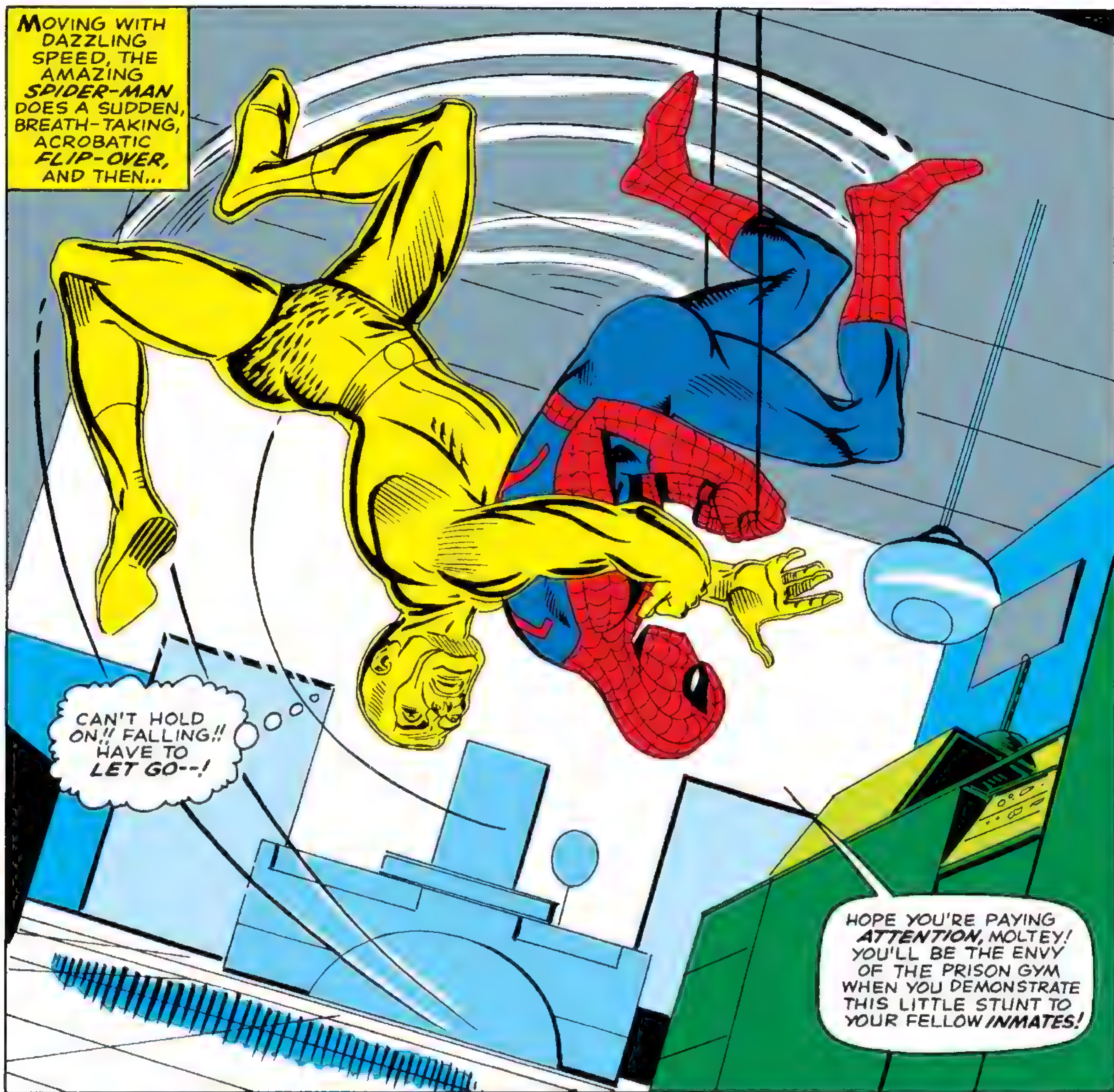
IT'LL TAKE ONLY A FEW MORE SECONDS TO DETECT THE PROPER COMBINATION! **AHHH-- I'M GETTING IT NOW!**







MOVING WITH
DAZZLING
SPEED, THE
AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN
DOES A SUDDEN,
BREATH-TAKING,
ACROBATIC
FLIP-OVER,
AND THEN...

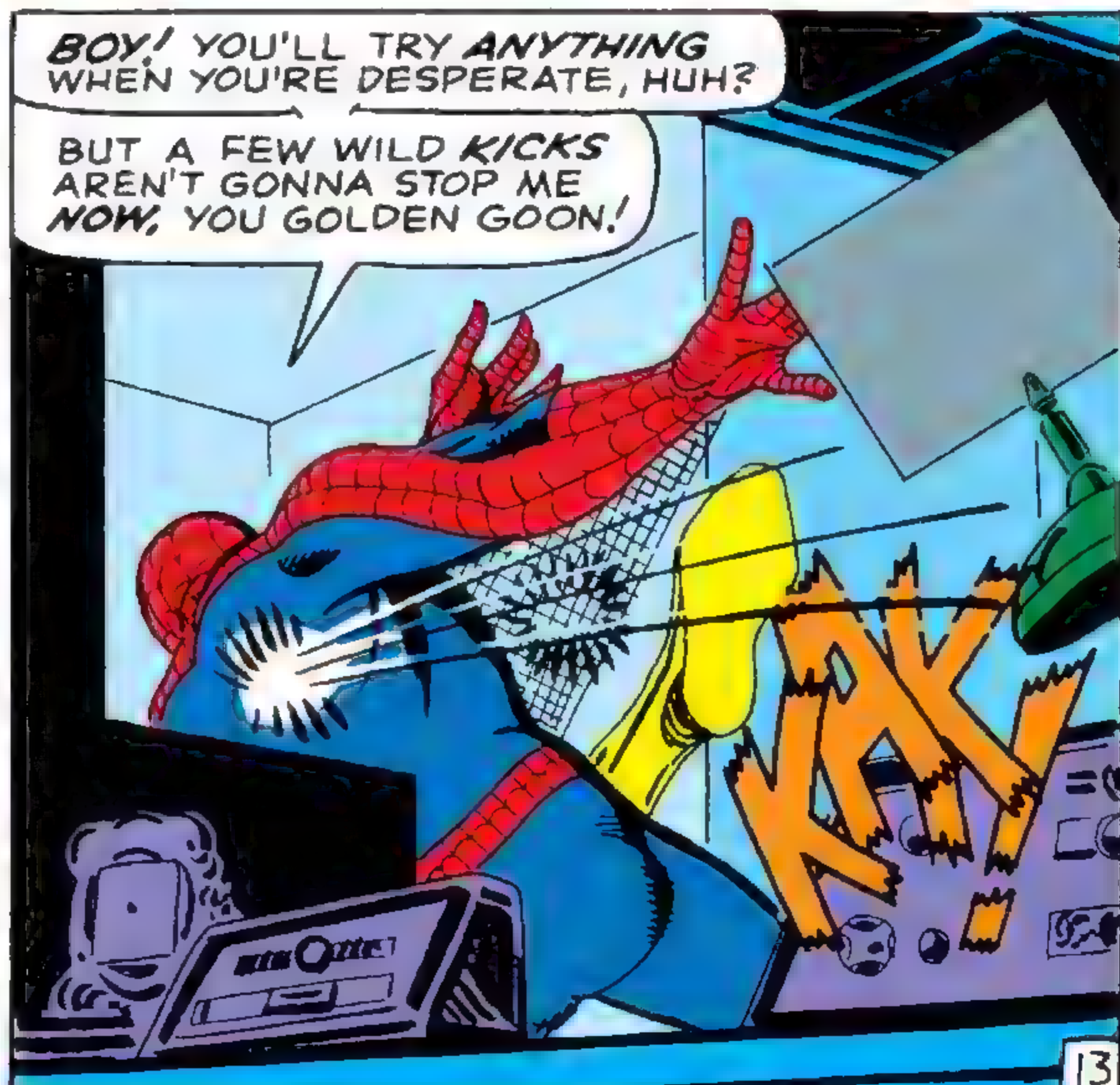


AND NOW,
JUST HOLD
THAT POSE,
MISTER!



BOY! YOU'LL TRY ANYTHING
WHEN YOU'RE DESPERATE, HUH?

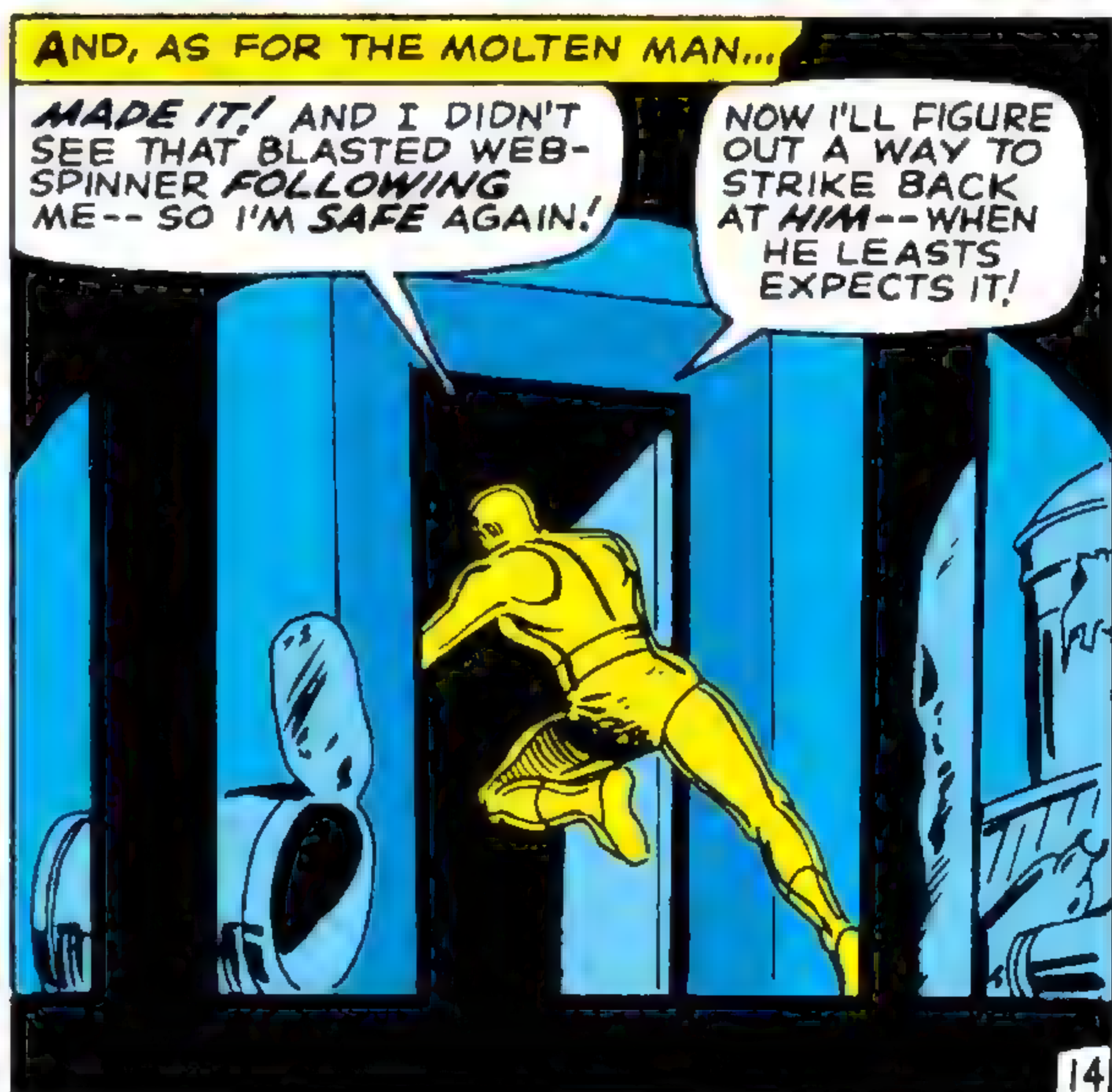
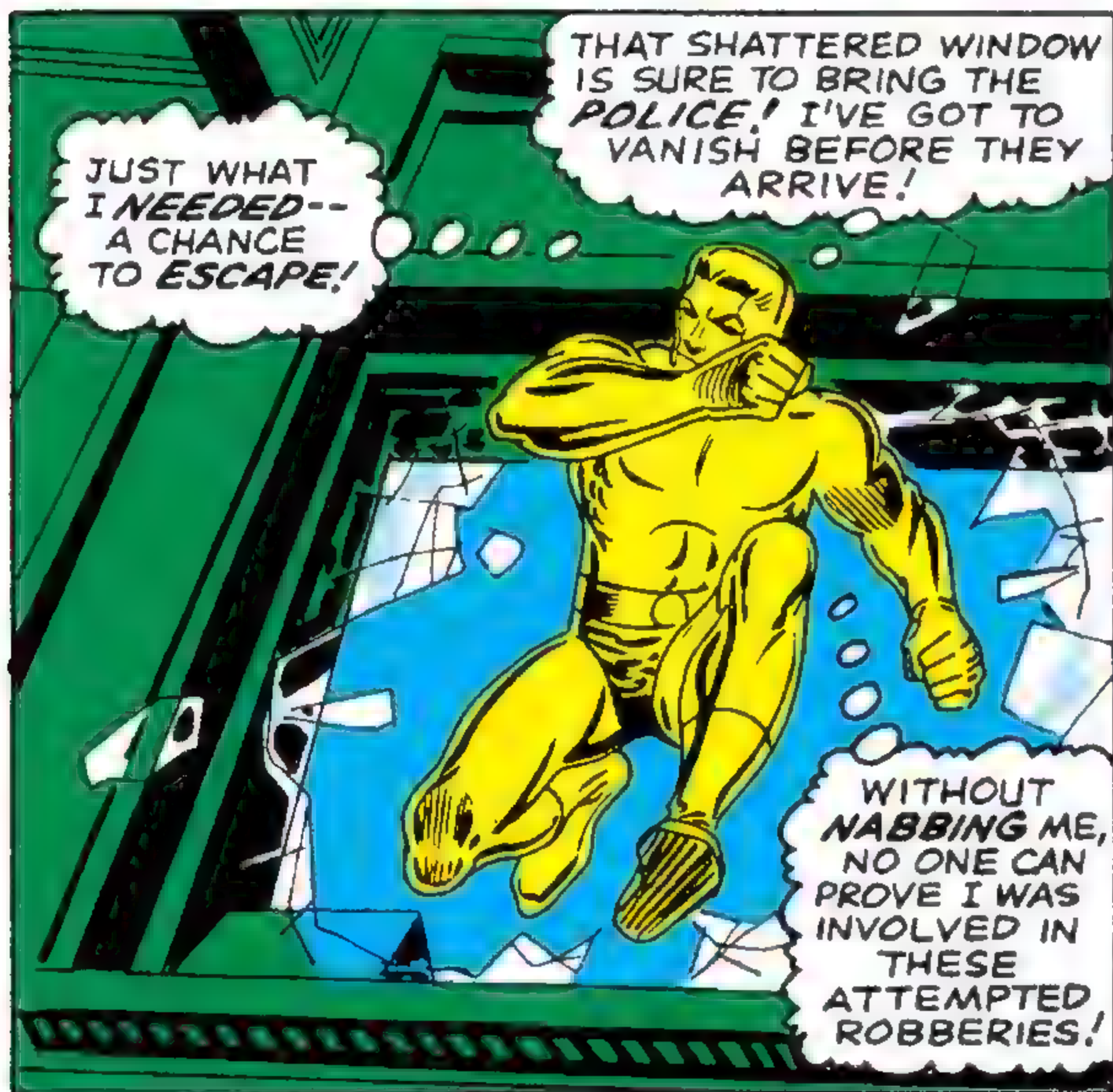
BUT A FEW WILD KICKS
AREN'T GONNA STOP ME
NOW, YOU GOLDEN GOON!

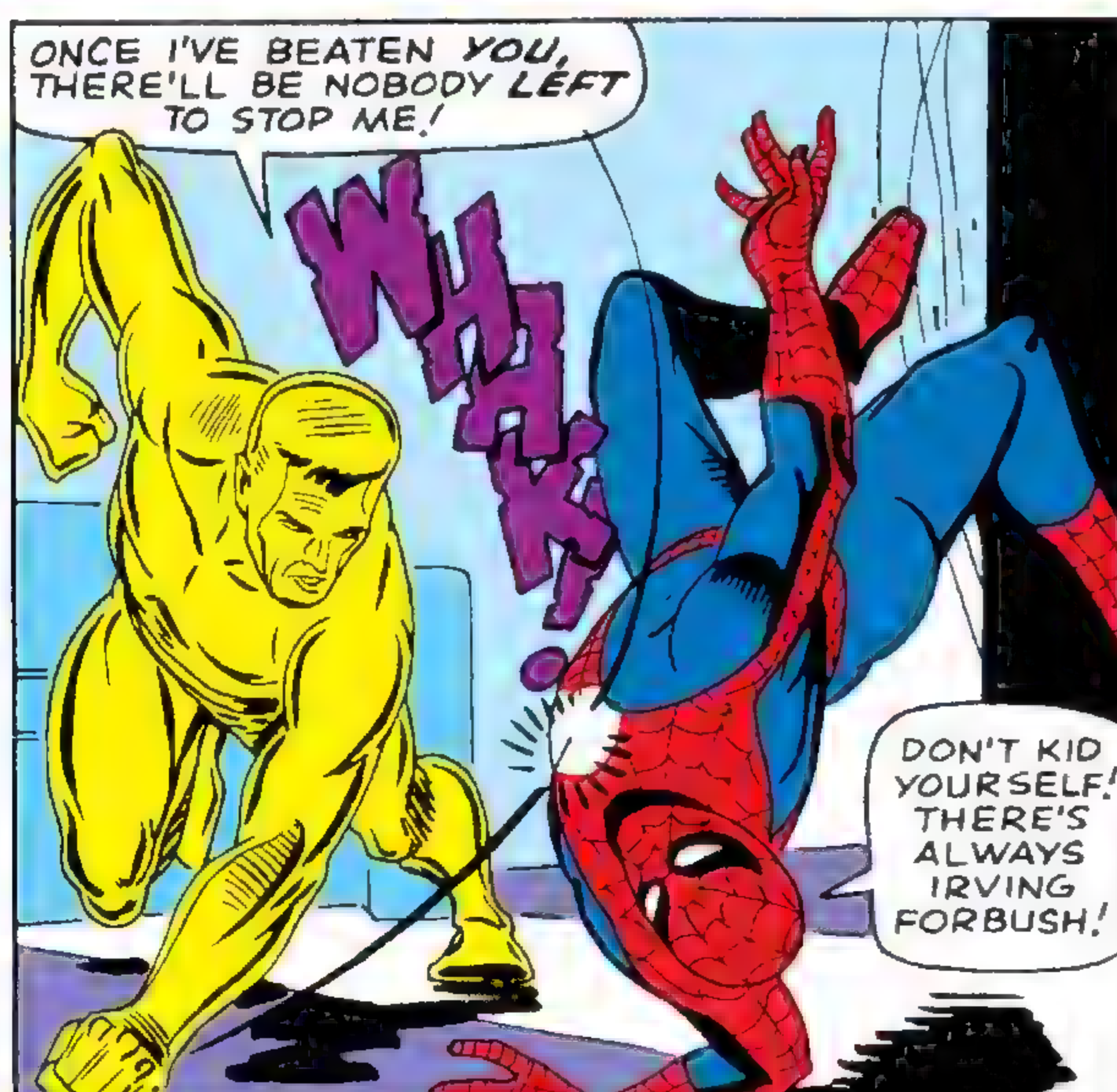
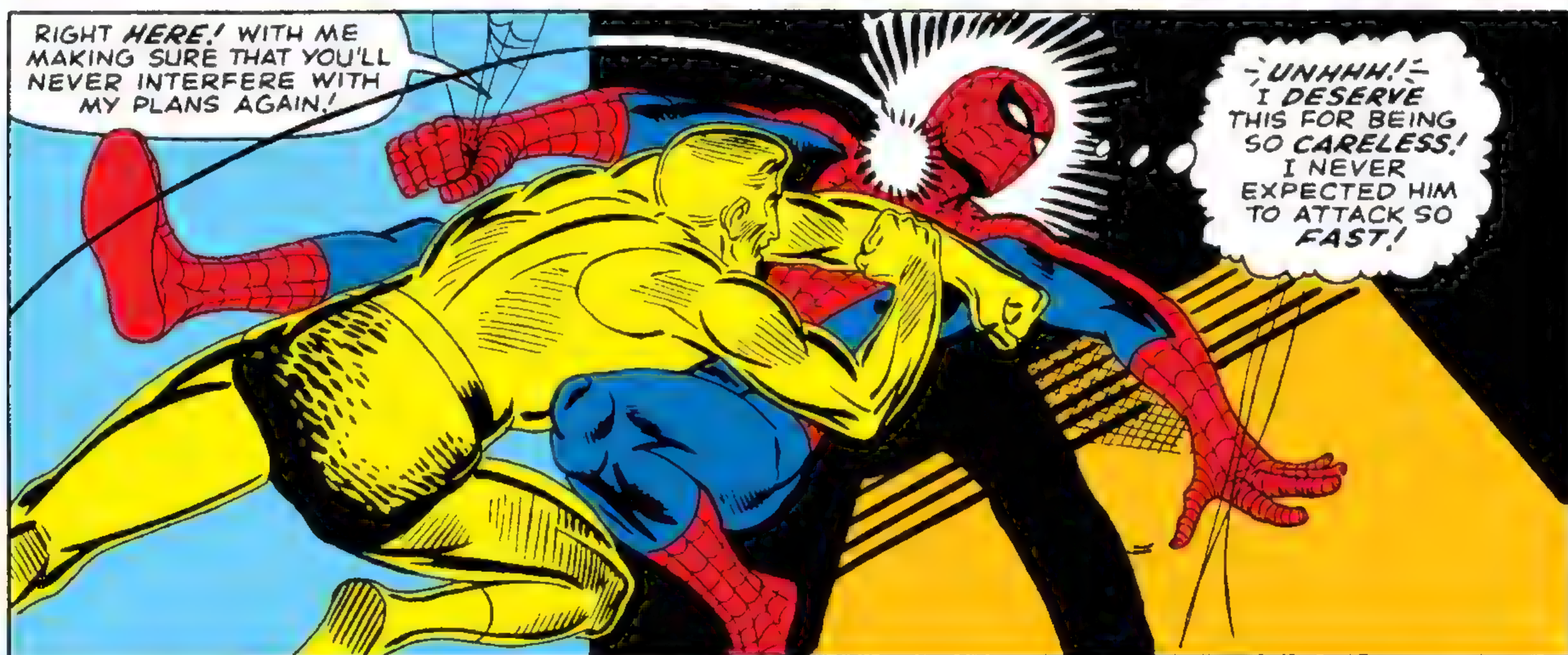


BUT, HIS RANDOM KICK DOES HELP THE MOLTEN MAN, FOR IT CAUSES SPIDEY TO COVER HIS FACE IN ORDER TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM FLYING GLASS--!



AND, IN THAT BRIEF INTERVAL, THE METALLIC MENACE MANAGES TO GAIN THE INITIATIVE AGAIN--ALBEIT TEMPORARILY!







OKAY--TIME'S UP! IF YOU WANNA USE ME FOR A PUNCHING BAG ANY LONGER, YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY UNION RATES!



AND NOW, HERE'S SOMETHING I HAD MADE SPECIALLY FOR YOU! I DON'T WANT TO BE UNPREPARED IF I LEARN IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!



IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, IT'S THE BETTER TO TIE YOU UP WITH, RED RIDING HOOD!

IT'LL BE EASIER THAN SKINNING MY KNUCKLES ALL DAY ON YOUR THICK HEAD!



OH NO, WISE GUY! I'M NOT GONNA BE AS EASY TO TRAP AS I WAS LAST TIME WE FOUGHT!

I'M A LOT SMARTER, AND STRONGER, AND TOUGHER THAN I USED TO BE!!

SURE! AND YOU PROBABLY HAVE 23% FEWER CAVITIES, TOO! SO WHAT?!!

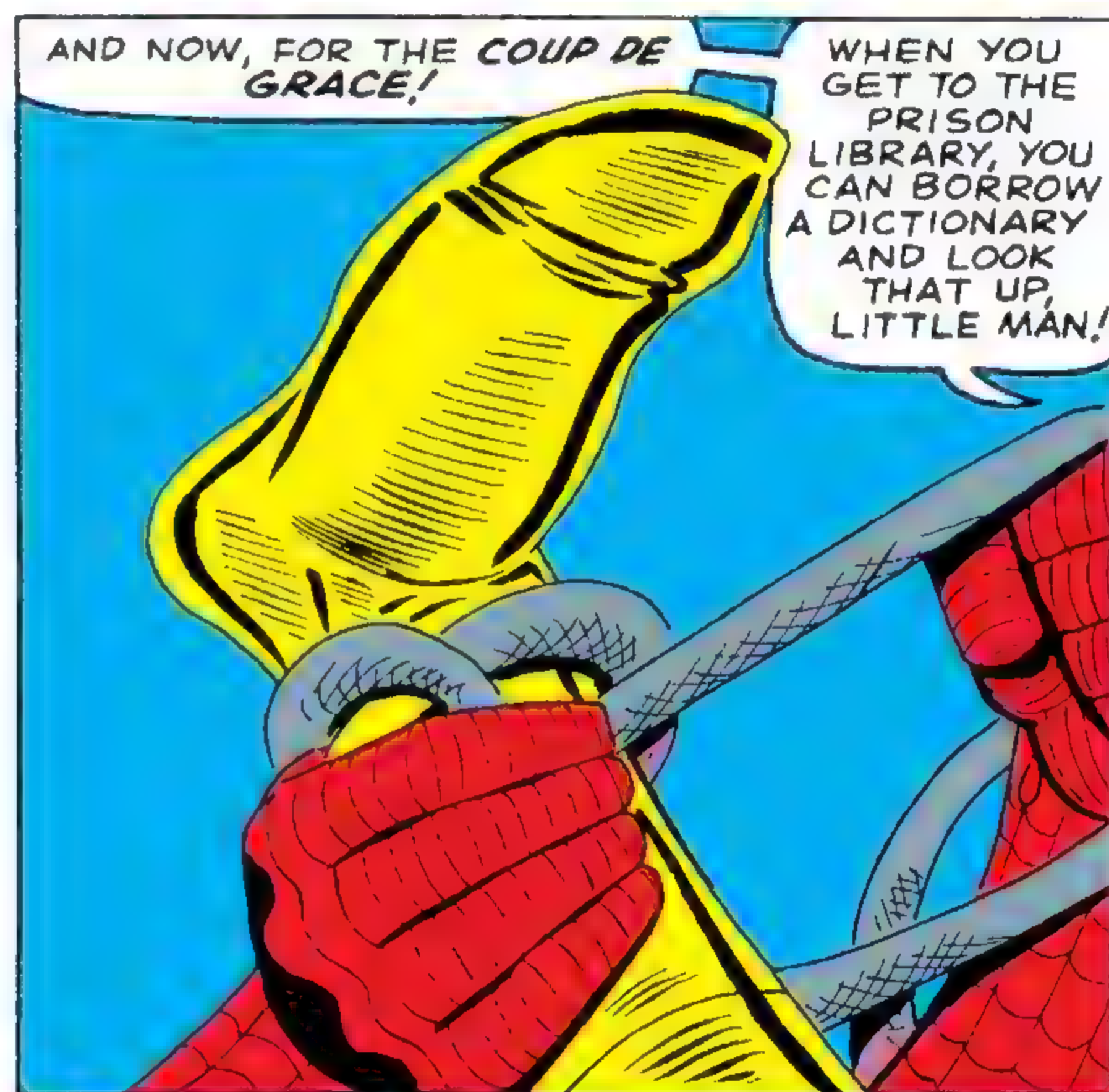
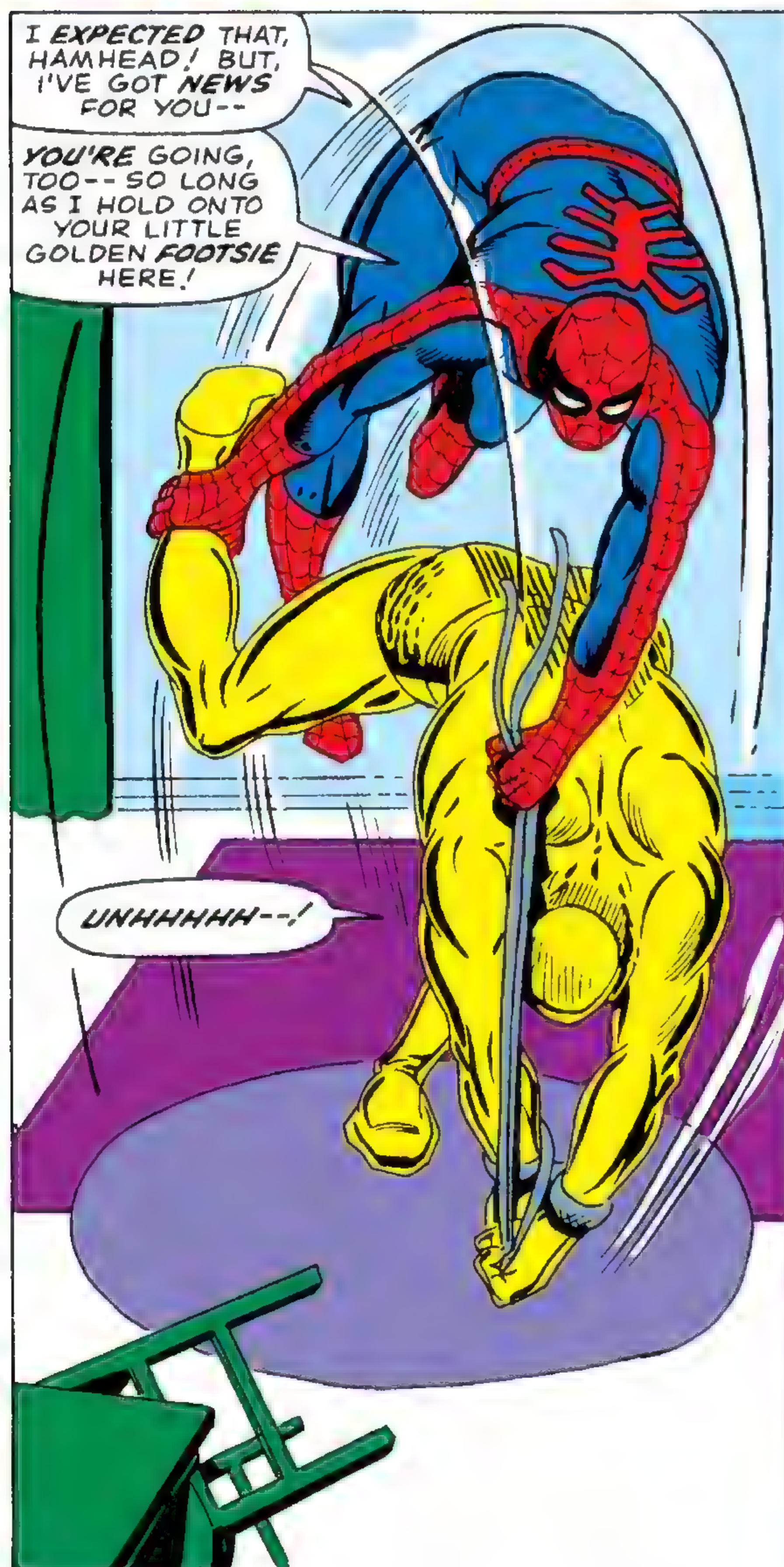


WHOOOP! NICE TRY-- BUT THAT LITTLE PUNCH IS GONNA BE YOUR LAST MISTAKE, MOLTEY!

AND THAT KICK WAS DIRTY POOL, IF YOU ASK ME!

KEEP TALKIN', CREEP! AS SOON AS I LAND ONE MORE PUNCH, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO-- EVER AGAIN!

NOW, JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE, WEB-HEAD -- THIS IS THE PAY-OFF!



MINUTES LATER, A SCENE WHICH OCCURRED A FEW MONTHS AGO IS REPEATED ANEW-- TO THE EXTREME DISCOMFITURE OF A MAN NAMED RAXTON...

GET ME OUT OF HERE!
YOU'VE NOTHING ON ME!

ACCORDING TO THIS NOTE FROM SPIDER-MAN, IF WE HOLD YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE, HE'LL BRING US PROOF THAT YOU WERE INVOLVED IN SOME ROBBERY ATTEMPTS!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT WITH YOU, FELLA!

WELL, I GUESS WE CAN STAND YOUR COMPANY FOR A WHILE, IF YOU'LL PUT UP WITH OURS!

GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE! WE'LL HOLD HIM ON SUSPICION OF ROBBERY FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN!

HOLD IT, NOW! EVEN THOUGH THE ACTION'S OVER, WE WANT YOU TO STICK AROUND FOR THE WRAP-UP! IT WON'T TAKE LONG...

FOR ONCE EVERYTHING WORKED OUT PERFECTLY! I HAD MY CAMERA ALL SET UP AND SNAPPED EVERYTHING I NEED!

WOW! I CAN HEAR RAXTON BELLOWING TO BEAT THE BAND FROM 'WAY OUT HERE!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I KNOW MY RIGHTS! YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I'M AS INNOCENT AS A NEW-BORN BABY!

WE'RE GLAD TO HEAR THAT, RAXTON! WANT US TO FETCH YOUR FORMULA FOR YOU?

ANYWAY, IF YOU GO CHARGING OUT OF HERE, YOU'LL PROBABLY JUST GET TIED UP BY SPIDER-MAN AGAIN! YOU'RE BETTER OFF WHERE YOU ARE!

YOU TELL 'IM, SARGE!

MY EARS WERE BURNING! SOMEONE MENTION MY NAME?

THESE PICTURES SHOULD GIVE YOU ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU NEED TO HOLD THE MOLTEN MAN UNTIL HE TARNISHES!

SPIDER-MAN! YOU KEPT YOUR WORD!

LET ME SEE WHAT'S IN THAT ENVELOPE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

SURE, TAKE A LOOK! BELIEVE IT NOW, MISTER RAXTON?

SHOTS OF ME CHANGING DISGUISE-- BREAKING INTO THE SHOP-- EVERYTHING! H-HOW--??

BRING YOUR NOTEBOOK, LOU! WE'VE GOT A CONFESSION COMING UP!

BUT, ENOUGH OF SUCH SORDID GOINGS-ON! LET US NOW CHANGE OUR SCENE-- IT'S A SHORT TIME LATER-- AS WE VISIT THE *DAILY BUGLE* WITH A PENSIVE PETER PARKER...





NEXT ISH...

A white and purple superhero villain with a large white head and a purple mask. He is standing next to a large white and purple mask.

...A SWINGIN' SUPER-VILLAIN, SO DIFFERENT, SO NEW, WE CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU HIS NAME YET!

LET'S MEET HIM TOGETHER IN *SPIDER-MAN* #36! 'NUFF SAID!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Stan and Steve,

I like your comics very much and have collected many of them dating back as far as 1962—especially SPIDER-MAN. As a matter of fact, if I hadn't liked them I would have sent all thirty of them back to you, and after reading the last few, I still might. Tonight I have just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #31 and after reading the last four issues I've become a bit distressed, and even worried! It's becoming ironic, even pathetic at times. What's happened to the old Spider-Man we all knew and loved? Let him have some fun! As a member of the M.M.M.S., I demand my rights. I want to see Spider-Man become happy again—or at least let Pete be happy. If I want to read something serious, I'll read *Great Expectations*. Please don't have a repeat of high school—let Pete have a few good friends. So until we meet again—"May the bird of paradise keep thy webbing untangled."

Victor L. Morgan, 1411 W. 8th St.
Wilmington, Dela.

Thanks, Vic! Know something? We kinda envy you! We wish we had time to read *Great Expectations*! We don't wanna sound disloyal to hard-workin' Stan, but that Charley Dickens really sends us! (We know that wasn't the point of your letter, but it's a lot easier than answering your objections! Nyahh!)

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just finished reading the Spider's Web in SPIDER-MAN #31. A costume that's green and yellow?? What does that fan want—a peacock or a Spider-Man? Spider-Man is a night roamer and I don't think the colors green and yellow would help him remain the unseen guardian he is. If you changed the color of his costume he wouldn't be the same Spider-Man. The story was very good. I like the way you have Parker ignoring Gwen Stacy. Also, Ditko's girls look much better in the close-ups.

Sam Morrell, 6281 Taylor Rd.
San Bernardino, Calif.

But don't tell him that, Sammy! It would be just our luck to have Steverino decide to give up Spidey and become a romance artist!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I am writing to tell you that you are very clever people, you are very funny people, and you must not even be people because people just aren't that good. I had been craving a good adventure comic for many years and hadn't found one. Anyway, my younger sister had this pile of comic books and my brain reeled at the thought of a possible adventure one. So I picked up a few wild-looking covers and the first I opened announced Kraven the Hunter on the cover. We all realize that some of the language in comic books is not for Shaw readers, but you do right well in adapting to your audience. Suffice it to say (swell phrase for a high-class fan letter) that I enjoyed the composition as much as a Peter Sellers movie or a Charles Beaumont story. The propaganda you distribute so ably concerning brains versus football heroes deserves mentioning. Consider it mentioned. I hope you men are writing in other than comics, despite deadlines and paychecks. You have so much talent—and the ability to transpose the talent through masterful technique into a razor-sharp result enabling a good many people to be entertained by a much higher level of satire and pure adventure than television can offer. On this grand note I shall close.

Ann Neckmeyer, 3909 W. Lorna Lane
Phoenix, Arizona

Gosh, Annie, don't close on our account! Swell-headed Stan says he can read letters like yours all day long! Many thanks, gal!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #31 and I have the answer to the fan who said that we were all getting poorer because you're making marvelous merchandise

faster than we can afford it. Well, why not just take your time and buy an item when you can afford it? Marvel will still have the stuff when you're ready to buy it. (I want the no-prize that's on the second shelf—third from the left!)

Brant Hollingsworth, 7401 4th N.W.
Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Sorry, Brant. Artie Simek just earned that one by doing an entire page without a lettering mistake! But we'll reserve the one on the *third* shelf for you. We've already printed your name on the no-label, and as soon as we can buy some airmail no-stamps, it'll be on its way in no time at all! (Kinda chokes you up, doesn't it?)

Dear Stan and Steve,

You surely give Spidey enough problems. I don't know how you can think of so many each month. Imagine—in issue #31 he got in trouble with almost all of his teachers, he gave everybody in school the wrong impression of him, he got in trouble with Betty, and his dear old Aunt May is sick with little time left—not to mention failing to capture his enemies! Don't you guys in the bullpen ever celebrate "Be Kind to Spider-Man Week"? Oh well, I guess things will turn out all right, even if Spidey has to buy a Brand Echh comic to conquer everything. I don't think anyone is left in this world who would buy one of your competitors' comics even to save their dear aunt. Would any of you in the bullpen do that??

Brad Reddersen, 710 Raleigh Road
Glenview, Ill. 60025

Not if they wanna keep working here! Aww, we're only kiddin', Brad! We're sure our competitors must have some titles that are worth buying! The fact that we've never found any probably just means we haven't been looking hard enough!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Spider-Man is really the best super-hero a guy could think of. His life is so tragic that I sometimes cry while reading it, and this is what makes him more realistic than any other super-hero. He is great! My friends and I read your mags so much that we spend half our pocket money each week buying them from many bookstores in Beirut. This is a disaster, but we can't help it! By the way, Stan, what about leaving that typewriter of yours and coming to spend a vacation in sunny Lebanon??

Tony Bikhazi, American University of Beirut
A.U.B. P.O. Box 121, Beirut, Lebanon

Stan would love to, Tony! And maybe someday, if he figures out the combination to that padlock we keep around him—! By the way, we can't bear the thought of you cats spending half your pocket money on our mags! (We wanna know what you're frittering the other half away on!) So, we're sending you a complimentary subscription to ol' Spidey, just because we're proud as punch to have so many fans at the American University in far-off Lebanon! Good luck to all you web-spinners from all of us stick-in-the-mudders!

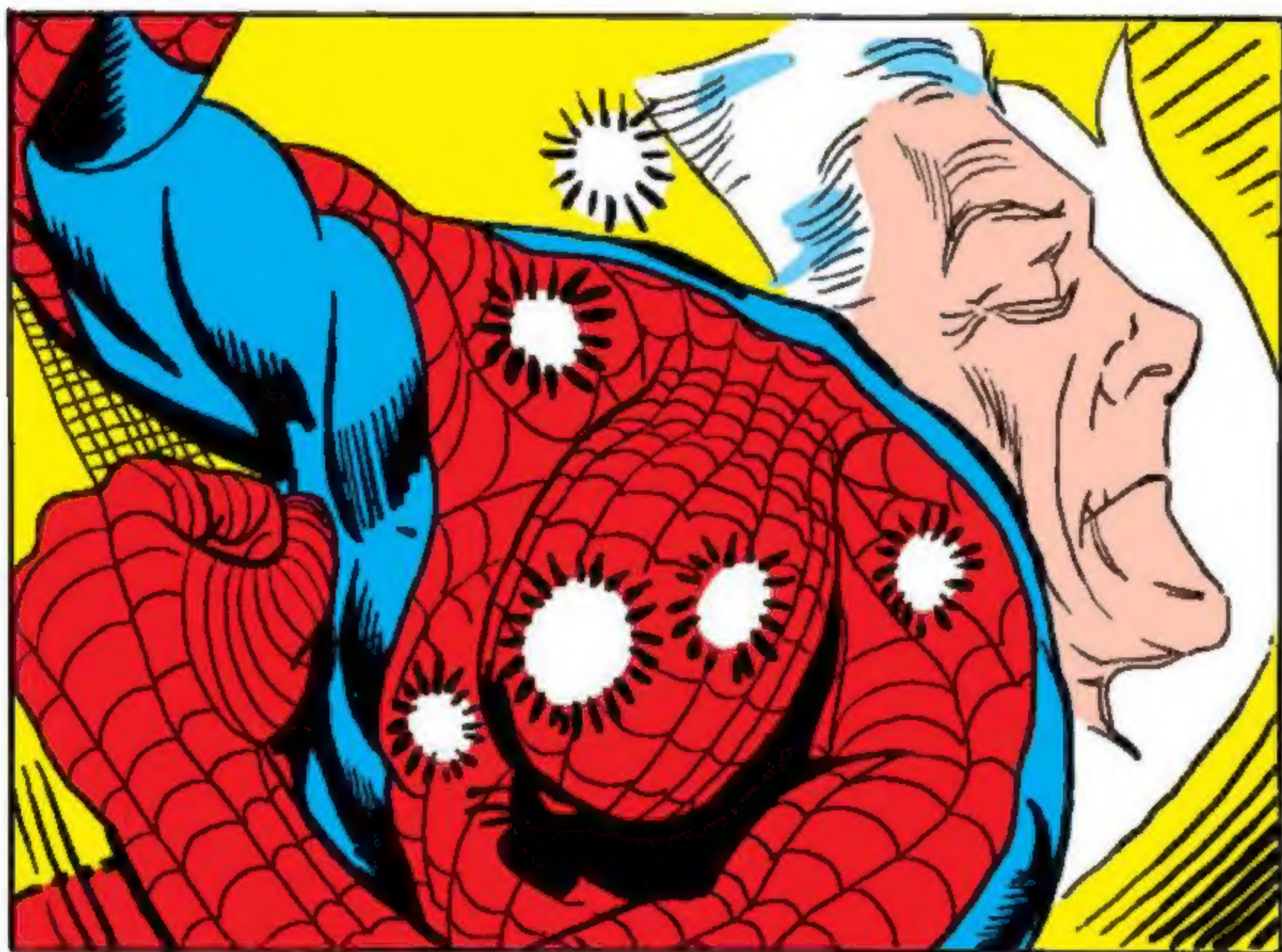
Dear Stan and Steve,

Please, I ask you as a dedicated Spider-Man fan, for every honest-to-goodness Marvel madman, knock off Aunt May! I mean, after all, what type of teenager, no matter how special he may be, could stand an ugly nag like her? If nothing else, she's nothing but a problem to him. I didn't mind good Uncle Ben (and his converted rice), but you had to do away with him. Now that nasty old witch is pushing our poor hero around and making him nuts. If you don't get rid of her soon, we may find our web-headed friend in the looney bin someday. You can be nice about her death. Just have Aunt May trip on her crutches, or choke on one of her beauty pills, or even have a heart attack after reading this great letter. Speaking as spokesman for the "I Hate Aunt May 'Cause She

Is A Trouble-Making Nag" Society, I want you to know that if you don't do something soon, we may be forced to picket the Baxter Building until we get the Fantastic Four to do the job for us. Remember, the Thing has an Aunt Petunia, but she doesn't boss him around (that's 'cause he's bigger and uglier than she is), so why does Petey Parker have such problems? I hope by the time you receive this letter the old witch will be gone. We can't take much more of her and I bet Spider-Man is getting pretty sick of Pruneface himself! This is not a threat, although we do have several cans of DDT in case of emergency. (Only joking!) Spider-Man is by far the best comic and we think he's really marvelous. Only please, let's rid the world of that awful menace known as Aunt May.

Jon Brant, 7 Bromley Dr.
West Orange, N. J.

Are you kiddin', Jon? Do you want us to lose half our fans? We've been told that mischievous May provides the romantic interest for our older Spiderphiles! Just wait'll you get fifty or sixty years older—you're liable to think she's a real pussycat!



Dear Stan and Steve,

Now that your comics have become controversial enough to appear in *The Village Voice*, *Cavalier*, and to get Spider-Man's and the Hulk's picture in *Esquire* as two of the twenty-eight people who count the most with the teenage and college rebels, I feel you should take a serious stand. My main concern is Spider-Man. Will he enter adulthood as a super-hero defending the United States, giving money to charities such as orphanages and hospitals? Or (as I so desperately hope) will he go through college and become the first intellectual, left-wing liberal super-hero, helping to stop wars, supporting S.N.C.C., C.O.R.E., and the N.A.A.C.P., singing songs of Bob Dylan, and every so often commenting on the works of Jean Paul Sartre? Spider-Man has the potential to become the greatest comic hero of all times! Already his followers have disregarded the other group of phony super-heroes. As a member of the M.M.M.S., I would like to urge you to give Spider-Man a break. Don't push him into manhood too quickly. Give him a chance to develop into a super-hero with a mind of his own, a personality, and, at least, a better judge of clothing. The choice, gentlemen, is up to you.

Art Raveson, Stockbridge School
Interlaken, Mass.

You present a powerful, persuasive case, Artie, but before we make a decision, we'd better hold off until the next mail arrives. We've got a hunch the John Birch Society may demand equal time!

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #31 was good. What did you say??—only good?? That's right—just good! First, the cover. I'm not quite sure about the cover. It was so different that I don't know whether to frame it or throw darts at it. I think it would have been better to make the spider-beam a bit larger and give the spider a bit of color. But now to the story. I'm positive on this. First, you sent Pete to school—excellent. Next, dear ol' Aunt May gets ill. Also fine and dandy. Peter is upset, naturally. Peter goes to school next day and—Stan, why oh why did you do it again? Pete is

number one on the Hate Parade. All through high school he was disliked. Now, with a chance to start over fresh, make friends and the like, you shoot him down again. He has a few friends and then, bingo, everyone hates him again. Please, please let him be happy for once! Now if Aunt May dies, don't make him suffer and grieve forever. Let him get over it. Also, the Master Planner is great—very mysterious. Good work. One last word—Steve, I thought your picture of Eternity in *STRANGE TALES* was tremendous!

Bob Johnson, 801 N. Ball
Owosso, Mich. 48867

Glad you stopped there, Bobby! We were afraid you'd start saying that Doc Strange is too unhappy, also! Anyhow, bear with us, frantic one! We may find a way to make Petey happy later on—if we get careless!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just read the fabulous five-page article on the merry Marvel Comics Group in the September issue of *Cavalier*, and it was great! It pointed out facts about Marvel that I'll wager even merry Marty Goodman didn't know, and it gave deserved recognition to the greatest thing that's ever happened to comics—namely, the Marvel Age of Comics. Who would have ever dreamed that a Fawcett publication would contain such wild praises for Marvel! Congrats, though, on being the first comic publishing house (as far as I know) to have an article published about it in a nationally known magazine. (I'm sure most fans will overlook the slight boo-boo that the writer of the article perpetrated—namely substituting the Hulk's name for that of the Thing, but don't let bashful Benjamin find out!) If you want to read a letter containing only praise, skip this part. Otherwise, read on. In a reply to a fan's letter in one of your recent lettercols, you stated that comic books—Marvel comic books—did not even approach the level (value-to-reader-wise) of the classics and other "good" books, and that Marvel Comics were strictly for fun and of little real value. Good grief! I don't care if you are the publishers of Marvel Comics—who are you to judge their literary value?? Who are you to say that an issue of *F.F.* or *SPIDER-MAN* is of less importance to the reader of such than, say, the third act of *Macbeth*? Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to place Stan Lee on a level with Bill Shakespeare. I'm merely saying that, just because stories are published in a form usually considered to be strictly for entertainment, their value is not necessarily nil! Whether you are aware of the fact or not, a person can gain an insight into some of the complexities of the human struggle for existence from a lowly *SPIDER-MAN* comic book that he could not get from a careful reading of *Hamlet*, just as he could gain some knowledge from *Hamlet* that he could not get from *Spider-Man*. Do you follow me? 'Nuff said! All your current issues are great as usual. It's getting monotonous. Couldn't you publish just one poorly done issue for a change? *S.H.I.E.L.D.* will be the success story of the year (or I'll be a monkey's *U.N.C.L.E.*). In the "Should Marvel heroes battle Reds?" controversy, I'm for anti-communism stories. I do, however, favor stories that picture communists as human beings rather than demons or monsters. Use your own judgment.

Mike Malson, 2007 Dahlia
Amarillo, Texas 79107

We love ya, Mike! You're one of the first fans extant to admit that we *have* any judgment! As for your philosophical peregrinations in the realm of candid creative critique, Stan wants to know why you're *not* putting him on a level with Shakespeare? He's wondering what you don't like about ol' Will!



NEXT ISH: There's something different coming up for you in our next great Spidey saga! These past couple of issues have featured the return of former villains, but—in *SPIDER-MAN* #36 we've got a brand new one all powered-up and rarin' to go! We think you'll really go for—our mystery man! Y'know, it took us longer to dream up a name for him than to write the story itself! At first we were gonna call him The Meteor Man, and then—but, you'll learn all about it for yourself next ish! Till then, don't wiggle your webs, and face front!

The Amazing Spider-Man #35 cover production photostat featuring Steve Ditko's original rendering of Spidey

